

Jordan Times

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Moldavians cross bridge of tears

BUCHAREST (AP) — A million joyous Moldavians surged into the Soviet Union Sunday for their first reunion with fellow Moldavians in 45 years. In a major humanitarian gesture, Soviet authorities agreed to open for just one day a 400-kilometre stretch of the River Prut which had separated the division of Moldavia between Romania and the Soviet Union since 1945. At the Leaseni Bridge alone, more than 300,000 Moldavians poured over the river to be greeted with hugs, kisses — and in some cases, gunfire — by Soviet soldiers on the other side. Border guards at the Leaseni Bridge, said a reporter, were not allowed to enter the Soviet Union, but a reporter said he was literally swept across the border in an embrace of humanity. Any attempt to turn back into Romania would almost certainly have resulted in being trampled underfoot, he said. The event, organised by Moldavian cultural associations on both sides of the border, had been billed in advance as "the bridge of tears."

Latvians brace for economic blockade

RIGA (AP) — Latvian politicians said Sunday they were steeling themselves for strikes, protests and an economic blockade now that the Kremlin has rejected their declaration of independence. Latvia's Communist Party chief, Alfreds Rubiks, said Saturday that Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told him by telephone he could not accept Latvia's secession, and might impose sanctions against the Baltic republic. "We understand the situation in Latvia will be very tough, even critical, this summer," said Peteris Laksis, one of the leaders of the Latvian People's Front, which engineered Friday's declaration. Anatoly Alexeyev, head of the interfront movement of non-Latvian residents, predicted that the Kremlin would start an economic blockade soon. Alexeyev, a prominent opponent of secession, said a labour group representing about 140,000 workers has called a general strike for May 15 to protest the declaration of independence.

29 injured in accident

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A total of 29 people were injured in a collision between two buses which occurred Sunday morning near Mafraq. Police sources said that four people were seriously injured and admitted to the accident to wrong overtaking by the driver of one of the buses. The injured were rushed to Mafraq government hospital for treatment.

The accident took place on the eve of Jordan's celebration of the Arab Traffic Week, which started Sunday. A total of 254 people were killed and more than 10,000 were injured in road accidents which took place in the various parts of the Kingdom in 1989, according to Traffic Department statistics.

King receives Egyptian, Yemeni messages amid intense moves towards Arab summit

Saudi leader arrives today after talks in Damascus, Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz arrives today amid a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at settling inter-Arab differences and paving the way for convening an extraordinary Arab summit before the superpower summit scheduled to take place May 30-June 2.

His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and another joint message from the leaders of North and South Yemen. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Egyptian message, delivered by presidential envoy Osama Al Baz, dealt with the current situation in the region, the dangers facing the Arab World and preparations for convening an Arab summit.

In addition to issues related to the proposed summit, the Yemeni message, delivered by the North's foreign minister, Abdul Rahman Iryani, also dealt with the steps taken by North Yemen and South Yemen towards merger, Petra said.

Both Baz and Iryani arrived here earlier in the day and were expected to leave late Sunday or early Monday.

Before dispatching Baz to Amman with the message, Mubarak met in Cairo with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who arrived in the Egyptian capital on a previously announced visit and it was believed that he conveyed to Mubarak Saudi King Faisal's views on the proposed summit and efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

In Baghdad, Prince Abdullah held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who has offered to host the summit, which will discuss the dangers inherent in massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and other pressing issues facing the Arab World.

Shortly before Prince Abdullah met with President Hussein, reports from Baghdad said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which called for the extraordinary Arab summit, was insisting that the proposed conference be held in the Iraqi capital despite Syrian opposition voiced in public by President Hafez Al Assad.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibbi was expected to arrive in Damascus late Sunday after a similar visit to Baghdad last week. Kibbi is seen as complementing all ongoing efforts to mend fences between Syria and Iraq.

A Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement is seen as the key to convening the summit, and Prince Abdullah visited Damascus and held talks with Assad, who is flying to Baghdad Sunday. No details were available on the Saudi leader's talks with Assad, who said Thursday that he would not attend the proposed summit if it was held in Baghdad.

Prince Abdullah is also believed to be seeking to end a seven-year-old rift between Damascus and the PLO leadership, which has close links with Baghdad. The Saudi leader, who has successfully mediated several inter-Arab disputes in the past, is also scheduled to visit Cairo.

King Hussein visited Baghdad Saturday, and the main issue he discussed with President Hussein was prospects for the proposed summit and resolving the Syrian-Iraqi rift, according to reports from the Iraqi capital.

The King's efforts with the Iraqi president were seen as an extension of the Saudi moves to convince Assad of the necessity to settle Damascus-Baghdad differences and clear the air for collective Arab action on the common challenges and dangers.

Arab diplomats quoted by Reuters in a Damascus-dated dispatch said Saudi Arabia was trying to convene a mini-summit of the leaders of Syria and Iraq prior to holding a full-scale summit. The mini-summit, Reuters quoted the diplomats as saying, could include King Hussein and Mubarak and possibly PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mubarak visited Syria last week in a move seen as sealing the reconciliation between Cairo and Damascus after a 12-year rift and as a bid to press for resolving the Syrian-Iraqi rift by Egypt, which is grouped together with Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a close ally of the Iraqi president, was also expected in Damascus later this week and Arafat might also come for the same purpose, Reuters reported.

In addition to the dangers posed to the Palestinians and the Arab World by massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the impact of the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe on the Arab World and the Middle East, the flagging Arab-Israeli peace process and the worsening situation in Lebanon are also expected to be tackled by the proposed conference.

U.S., Arab experts urge world action on dangers posed by Jewish immigration

Symposium concludes with call on Security Council to convene international conference on Middle East conflict

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A number of prominent American and Arab scholars and intellectuals Sunday urged the international community to seriously address the dangers threatening the Middle East peace process as a result of the mass migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

In his opening address on Saturday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan warned that Israel might succeed in diverting world attention from the issue of Soviet Jews. Prince Hassan attended most of Sunday's session and took part in the discussions that preceded the formulation of the final statement.

During the final session, Adnan Abu Odeh, the political advisor of His Majesty King Hussein, made a strong point by arguing that the wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants posed a serious threat to the stability of the area.

The statement, signed by the participants in the symposium organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), also urged the United Nations Security Council to convene an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict (see box).

The conclusions reached by the symposium were viewed by observers as a successful attempt to "lobby for American support for immediate action to promote the peace process in the region."

During the two days of debate, Arab, particularly Jordanian, participants repeatedly emphasised the urgency of addressing the repercussions of the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

In his analytical presentation, Abu Odeh refuted Israeli attempts to project the issue of Soviet Jews as a strictly an issue of human rights. "Had the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel been merely another manifestation of the victory of man's struggle for human rights, we would not have gathered here to discuss it," he said. "The truth, however, is that Jewish immigration to Israel has been for over a century an affair of the utmost political seriousness," he argued.

Abu Odeh then explored the role of Jewish immigration in the creation and expansion of Israel. He also reviewed Israeli policies and steps which aim at evicting Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He concluded that the urgency of the situation warrants intensive and immediate international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement based on United Nations resolutions, the Palestinian right to self-determination and the right of all states in the region to live in peace.

All of the American participants were professors of Harvard University who are renowned specialists on the Middle East and negotiations.

During Monday's session, five papers were presented on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and the peace process in the region.

Final statement

1. We urge that the U.N. Security Council, with the immediate and strong support of its permanent members, convene a comprehensive Middle East peace conference to be attended by the five great powers and all parties concerned to achieving just and lasting peace, and to resolving the conflicts not now in the Middle East.
2. We call the attention of all countries in the world to the dangers to the Middle East peace process created by (the failure of so many of them to accept substantial members of Soviet Jewish emigrants theory facing the great majority of them to settle in Israel to the exclusion of other nations.
3. Finding this seminar to be a constructive and broadening process, the participants request that an ongoing dialogue be developed by the Arab Thought Forum, so that generic and specific issues of conflict resolution in the Middle East can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Panel set up to legalise Amnesty chapter

AMMAN (Petra) — A 31-member preparatory committee has been elected to follow up on the legal steps for setting up a Jordanian chapter of Amnesty International. The committee elected from among its members a 13-member executive bureau comprising Asma Khader, Abdul Jabbar Abu Gharbeih, Khalid Ramadan, Mohammad Abu Fatah, Mazen Abu Bakr, Hussein Al Khreishel, Mansour Murad, Suleiman Sweis, Waddah Haddadin, Hani Hourani, Yousef Hourani and Mohammad Al Muhsein. The election took place Sunday in the presence of the organisation's representatives, Ahmad Uthmani and Robert Wilson.

Gazan student shot dead

OCUPPED GAZA (R) — Israeli troops shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian high school student in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday during a general strike called to support Palestinian prisoners.

Mohammad Khalid Musa was shot twice, at least once in the head, during clashes in the Rafah refugee camp on the border with Egypt, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

He was taken to hospital but his family immediately claimed the body for burial, the sources said.

In Nablis, largest city in the occupied West Bank, troops fired bullets and tear-gas in the Balata refugee camp to fight off stone-throwing youths who had tried to overrun an army position, witnesses reported.

The general strike, which Palestinians said was nearly total, was called by leaders of the 29-month-old revolt in "solidarity with the heroes of detention camps and their suffering."

Sunday is a normal work day for most residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's Tim news agency said 1,300 vehicles carrying Arab labourers left Gaza for jobs in Israel despite the strike, but Palestinians said far fewer travelled to the Jewish state.

In the West Bank, serious clashes broke out when some 300 students defied an army curfew in the town of Tulikarm and marched with the Palestinian flag in solidarity with Palestinian detainees, reports said.

Hospital officials said four students suffered gunshot wounds, including a 17-year-old girl who was hit in the left thigh and was in serious condition.

The army, which had imposed the curfew Saturday following the shooting death of a Palestinian there, said troops shot four protesters with plastic bullets.

Also, Sunday, the body of a 37-year-old Palestinian woman was found strangled alongside a road in her Gaza Strip village and taken to the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, reporters said.

They said the woman was suspected of prostitution. Muslim fundamentalists have slain Palestinian prostitutes and drug dealers as suspected collaborators as part of their campaign to purge them from their society.

Rights group blasts Israel

An international children's rights group has accused Israel of holding Palestinian minors in inhuman conditions at a jam-packed Jerusalem jail where many are beaten by guards.

The scathing report on the Russian Compound, just off Jerusalem's main shopping street, was issued Saturday by the Geneva-based group Defence for Children International (DCI).

"The most severe impression was the inhuman overcrowding in the youth wing," it said.

The compound was built for Russian clergy in the 19th century. Part of it was converted to a police station and lock-up under the pre-1948 British mandate.

Representatives of the group visited the compound. The report cited interviews in April with 39 minors who complained of beatings by warders.

"There were also complaints of having been beaten on their way to visit the doctor, so now they avoid going to him," it said.

Ban on male hairdressers draws mixed reaction

By Saad Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A decision by the Ministry of Interior to halt the issuance of new licences for male hairdressers has drawn mixed reactions over the legality of such a decision.

"Prohibiting male hairdressers from cutting women's hair is a breach of the Constitution which stipulates that all citizens are equal, both in rights and obligations," commented attorney Salim Zoubi, a member of the Lower House of Parliament.

The ministry decided as of May 1 not to register new malecomers to women's beauty shops, a Minister of Interior source told the Jordan Times Sunday.

The source, who requested anonymity, said while the decision would not affect the status of working men it prohibited the issuance of new licences in this field for men starting this month.

Ahmad Khudari, president of the Public Services Association, echoed the opinion of Deputy Zoubi.

"This measure will further aggravate unemployment among male workers" currently running at estimated 20 per cent of the Kingdom's 600,000-strong workforce, Khudari said.

"We are living in a democratic state and people of all walks of life should have a say in what sort of career they would like to pursue," he added.

Khudari said female hairdressers were the only beneficiaries of the new decision, established in 1954, the association groups 1,000 women and 1,500 men.

Hassan Hamdi, a government employee, had a different opinion.

"I am not willing to send my wife, sister or mother to a male hairdresser," he said, adding that women's hairdressing should be restricted to females.

In 1976, some 750 female hairdressers formed what they termed the association of women's beautyshop keepers whose membership overlapped with that of the Public Services Association.

Sunday's decision was seen by observers as another government concession to the Islamist movement, which clinched nearly one third of the House's 80 seats in the Nov. 8 elections.

In February, the national carrier Royal Jordanian prohibited alcohol aboard flights to Arab and Islamic countries.

CBJ rejects devaluation rumours, warns public

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday dismissed as groundless rumours that a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar was in the offing and that the foreign exchange reserves of Jordan were under pressure.

"All these claims have probably originated with dealers in unofficial financial markets," CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi was quoted as saying by Petra in an interview.

"The Central Bank is continuing to build up its foreign exchange reserves," he said. "It has proved its ability to meet the demands for foreign exchange to cover imports and meet the Kingdom's foreign commitments," he added.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh said in late March that the CBJ's foreign exchange reserves stood between \$370 million to \$380 million after the Kingdom met some outstanding payment of interest to foreign creditors earlier this year. The finance minister expressed confidence that the Kingdom would be able to raise its reserves to \$650 million by the end of the year, and that the present value of the Jordanian dinar was "very healthy and realistic."

The American dollar was trading at the rate of 668/672 fils set by the Central Bank Sunday, and financial circles said there appeared to be no fluctuations in the official market. However, they said there was a marked rise in the value of the dollar in the black market, where it traded between 690 fils and 710 fils.

In his comments carried by Petra Sunday, Nabulsi said that there was a downward trend in the value of the American dollar in international currency markets and this had been reflected in the daily exchange rate bulletins issued by the Central Bank. If anything, the governor said, the indications point to a decline in the dollar's value against the dinar and not vice-versa.

"The Central Bank is determined to adhere to its policy of stabilising foreign exchange (Continued on page 3)

12 killed in Pakistan train blast

LAHORE (AP) — A bomb-ripped through the first-class car of an express passenger train near the troubled border with India Sunday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 41, authorities said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. Authorities refused to speculate about who planted the bomb but said it was sabotage. The bomb exploded about 3 p.m. (1000 GMT) in the restroom of the first-class car, according to Mohammad Iqbal Baid, stationmaster at the tiny Badami Bagh station.

Amal, Hizbollah renew battles

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shiite Muslim forces fought with mortars and machineguns Sunday in South Lebanon, killing one person, security sources said. They said militants of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Amal fought for two hours in the Iqim Al Tufah area.

Libya denies W. German report

NICOSIA (R) — Libya Sunday denied a West German magazine report that it was building a new chemical arms plant. Der Spiegel quoted Western intelligence sources as saying the secret plant at Sabha, about 650 kilometres south of Tripoli, was similar to one damaged by fire at Rabta, southwest of Tripoli. The Libyan news agency JANA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted an official source at the foreign Ministry as saying: "There is no truth whatsoever in the existence of a new or old factory."

Kishtmand made Afghan vice-president

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah named former Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishtmand Sunday as first vice-president of his Soviet-backed government. Kabul Radio reported. The appointment must be approved by parliament, said the broadcast. Kishtmand, a loyal but lacklustre figure in the ruling People's Democratic Party, was prime minister for nine years before being replaced by Mohammad Hassan Sharq in May 1988.

Soviets clear way for German unity

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union has cleared the path to rapid German unity, avoiding a stubborn dispute over North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership and prompting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to speak Sunday of an "historic event for Germany and Europe."

Moscow's opposition to Western demands that a united Germany be anchored in NATO was the main stumbling block at talks here between both Germanys and the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

But a West German official said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had told the "two-plus-four" talks Saturday that Moscow no longer insisted the new state's military status be defined before East and West Germany merge.

Its unexpected consent to unification before the thorny NATO issue is resolved means that the Germans, already well on their way to fusing their economies July 2, are now free to decide when and how they finally end four decades of division.

"There are no more hurdles along the way to the realisation of the right of all Germans to self-determination," Kohl said in a triumphant statement Sunday.

"After 40 years of painful separation, the fervent wish of all Germans to unite in one country is being fulfilled."

Shevardnadze, who had suggested united German membership in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact to keep the new state from tilting totally to the West, made the crucial concession at the first session of the talks whose aim is to end Germany's post-war division and restore full sovereignty to the German people.

The West German official quoted him as telling the closed-door session the external aspects, which include the NATO issue, need not be solved as quickly as the internal questions left for the Germans to decide.

The war-time allies' current rights could continue as a special transitional measure until the alliance question was solved and Germany could be given full sovereignty, he said.

Foreign ministers at the talks, the first high-level bid to solve the German question since 1959, all left the session expressing confidence they could find a compromise by this autumn but left journalists guessing what it could be.

"This means a de-coupling," the Bonn official, who asked not to be identified, explained Sunday. "The internal aspects of German unity can now be settled rapidly."

"The Soviet Union now wants to delay a final settlement of the external aspects in order to de-fuse its own domestic political doubts (about unity)," he said.

Shevardnadze appealed to his Western colleagues Saturday not to embarrass the Kremlin, which had long hailed the 1945 triumph over the Nazi reich as an epochal victory for the Soviet Union, by snatching the united country for NATO.

"Emotions (could) boil in our country, raising ghosts of the past, raising national complexes rooted in tragic pages of our history," he said. "The Soviet people must see that a line is being drawn under the past in a just and worthy fashion."

Ministry involved in bid to settle union federation rift

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour has intervened to determine the legitimacy of elections held by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) last month and to put an end to the dispute which has led to a split among the 17 unions represented in FJLU's 95-member central council.

According to Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat, the ministry has assigned a special "legal committee" to study a memorandum delivered to the ministry by a newly-created "democratic bloc" of 10 of the 17 unions contesting the results of the elections and to follow up on a reply memorandum from the council's newly-elected secretary general, Abdul Halim Khaddam, which the minister expected to receive Monday.

The committee, headed by our legal consultant, will study the legal aspects of the dispute as stipulated by the labour law," Obeidat told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Sunday.

He rejected allegations that the ministry was illegally interfering in the dispute and stressed that the legal aspect of the dispute "is the ministry's business."

Haidar Rashid, leader of the "democratic bloc," told the Jordan Times that the bloc's memorandum was addressed to the Ministry of Labour "because it is the authority concerned."

"We are only asking that the labour laws be applied properly," Rashid said.

He reiterated the bloc's demands for new FJLU elections and a "more proportional representation of the member unions of the federation."

Rashid also called for "rectifying violations" by some of the member unions before new elections are held.

The row revolves around contentions made by at least five member unions of the federation, which represents 25,000 Jordanian workers, that the organisation is in urgent need of structural reforms.

The "democratic bloc" demanded administrative as well as structural reforms as the condition for their participation in last month's elections.

Rashid called for reform which would lead to the reduction of the representative members of the unions from 95 members "to a maximum of 70."

He explained that several unions, which are supposed to be made up of workers, "had government employees as representatives or as members of that union."

He cited as example the Air Transport and Tourism Union "having employees and not labourers among its members."

Rashid said that the union's representatives were all employees of Royal Jordanian "and has to be reformed to include only workers."

He also pointed to the Municipal Workers Union and the Railway Workers Union as examples of "unproportional representation" in the federation. (Continued on page 3)

Iranian speaker blasts 'hated' U.S., rules out diplomatic ties

NICOSIA (AP) — The radical speaker of Iran's parliament Sunday denounced the United States as "the enemy of Islam... hated by our people" and ruled out a resumption of diplomatic relations.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Karrubi as declaring in the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament: "No one can establish relations with the America."

As members of the radical-dominated Majlis chanted "death to America," Karrubi declared: "As long as America is plotting against the Islamic World and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the issue of negotiations between Iran and the U.S. will never be discussed."

Karrubi's uncompromising remarks echoed anti-U.S. statements by other Iranian leaders, including President Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in recent days.

The broadside was apparently triggered by U.S. President George Bush's refusal to make a "goodwill gesture" toward Iran and its Shiite Muslim allies in Lebanon following the release of two American hostages last month.

Robert Polhill, 55, was freed April 22 after 39 months as the captive of Shiite extremists in Lebanon. Frank Reed, 57, was released April 30 after being held hostage for 42 months.

The kidnapers and Iranian officials called on Bush to re-

conciliate with a conciliatory gesture. But he declared that Washington did nothing until all six remaining American hostages held in Lebanon have been freed unconditionally.

Karrubi said that Washington had made resumption of relations with Tehran conditional on the release of all U.S. hostages. "This is wishful thinking," he said. "No one has ever thought, or will, of establishing relations with the U.S."

Bush's action and the ensuing surge of anti-American sentiment in Tehran appears to be a setback for Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists.

Although he also made anti-U.S. statements, he had been seeking to improve relations with the West to secure badly needed foreign investment and advanced technology. Those assets are needed to revitalize Iran's sagging economy and improve conditions for Iran's 55 million people.

Rafsanjani is believed to have sought the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, where 16 Americans, Britons and others are still missing, to encourage a Western response.

He is bitterly opposed by radical-led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi who argue that foreign involvement in Iran will undermine the Islamic

revolution and betray the teachings of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader.

Karrubi and other Iranian officials have seized on a series of events in Washington since Polhill was freed to whip up anti-American sentiment and accuse Bush of sabotaging efforts to free the hostages.

Two days after Polhill walked to freedom the U.S. House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution endorsing a united Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel."

The day after Reed was released, the State Department released a report that listed Iran and Syria, which had also helped in the hostage releases, as states supporting terrorism even as Bush was publicly thanking them for their help.

The Washington Post reported on May 4 that a U.S. Defense Department study of the closing stage of the Iran-Iraq war said that the Iranians used chemical weapons in fighting around the northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja in March 1988.

Previously only Iraq had been blamed for dropping poison gas bombs on the town, killing a reported 4,000 Kurdish civilians.

The cumulative effect of these events appears to have given Rafsanjani's rivals the ammunition they need to undermine his efforts.

As has happened in the past when Rafsanjani was in danger of

being outflanked, he has adopted a tough public posture himself.

"We do not want relations with the United States, and welcomed the breaking of ties," he declared Thursday.

Washington severed relations with Iran in November 1979, when militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostages for 444 days.

He likened Bush's administration to "a spoiled, frustrated child."

The Iranians have called on Washington to use its influence on Israel to free some 400 Shi'ites and Palestinians held by Israel's militia.

Tehran also wants the United States to determine the fate of four Iranians kidnapped by Christian militiamen in Lebanon in July 1982 and free them if they are still alive. Lebanese sources have said the four are believed to be dead.

"We have repeatedly addressed Western statesmen to use their influence for the release of Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian hostages," Karrubi declared.

He said that Shi'ite militants in Lebanon released Polhill and Reed "according to divine rules and Islamic insight."

The releases "had nothing to do with the United States," he said.

"It seems that American statesmen have forgotten how much they and their country are hated by our people," he declared.

PLO to renew bid for WHO membership

GENEVA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation is to make a new bid to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the United States threatening to cut off funds if the PLO is admitted.

The move is likely to overshadow discussion of AIDS and other medical issues when the 167-member world health body holds its annual meeting starting Monday.

The PLO failed last year in a first attempt to win promotion from observers to full member status and member states promised to look at its application again this year.

But the United States, which provides over a quarter of the WHO's annual budget, has made it clear it will cut off financial contributions if the PLO's bid is successful.

The U.S. mission in Geneva circulated a note reminding journalists and diplomats that Washington was required by law to withhold funding to any United Nations agency "that enhances the status of the PLO, such as accepting it as a full member."

The PLO membership issue is among 33 items on the agenda of the two-week review of the world's health problems by health ministers.

The meeting will hear progress reports on the spread of AIDS, nutritional research, disposal of hazardous waste and health assistance to refugees.

The development of a health system in newly-independent Namibia, the WHO's 167th member, is also on the agenda.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan has tried to persuade the PLO to give up its bid for full membership on the grounds that a U.S. financial cutoff would harm the agency's health efforts worldwide.

The United States puts up the bulk of the money that the WHO spends in efforts to stem the spread of the deadly disease AIDS.

Nakajima told reporters recently he had held informal contacts with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his representative in Geneva, Nabil Ramlawi.

"The Palestinians are fully aware of the financial implications," he said.

Oman to counter flash floods

MUSCAT (AP) — City water officials Sunday unveiled plans to counter deadly flash floods which kill residents in the capital and its environs every year.

Two flood control dams are to be constructed at strategic risk locations in Muscat and a study will be carried out to pinpoint other hazardous low-lying areas across the rest of the country, a Water Resources Ministry spokesman said.

The dams will be built in Wadi Muscat and at Wadi Lamsah near Ghallab, Surface Water Department Deputy Director Wayne Curry told the Associated Press. Rainfall in Oman, which lies on the southeastern tip of the Arabian peninsula, is erratic and flash floods are a frequent phenomenon.

More than 50 millimetres of water can fall in a 24-hour period. That is equal to half the average precipitation for an entire year in Oman.

Iraqi president, Turkish premier discuss Euphrates, pipe dispute

BAGHDAD (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut held talks with Iraqi leaders Sunday amid differences over Baghdad's demand for a guaranteed share of Euphrates river water and Ankara's desire for a hot-pursuit accord to combat Kurdish guerrillas.

Turkish embassy officials said Akbulut, who arrived in Baghdad Saturday for a three-day visit, met with President Saddam Hussein and discussed "bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern."

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Akbulut delivered a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to Saddam.

They declined to disclose the contents of the message.

But sources close to the Turkish delegation said Ozal explained why Turkey handed over to Britain metal tubes bound for Iraq that were seized on a truck at the Bulgarian border last week.

It was the third seizure of British-made metal tubes destined for Iraq in recent days. The others occurred in Britain and Greece.

The British government maintains the tubes are components for a giant, long-range "super gun" capable of firing chemical warheads at Israel. Iraq insists the pipes are for a petrochemical plant.

The sources reported that Ozal said in his message that he hoped Iraq would understand Turkey's position in sending back the pipes because of the British allegations.

The message also expressed Turkey's readiness to boost its relations with Iraq and reiterated Ankara's efforts to settle a dispute over water from the Euphrates River, the sources said.

Iraqi officials were not available for comment.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey, its northern neighbour, soured in January when the Turks cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill the reservoir of the huge Ataturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

The 2,300-kilometre Euphrates originates in eastern Turkey. It flows through Syria and then Iraq before joining the Tigris River, which also originates in Turkey, to form the Shatt-Al-Arab Waterway that runs into the Gulf.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported Sunday that disagreements have emerged on the Euphrates issue and border security.

The Iraqis are pressing for an agreement that will fix flow rates for all the states along the Euphrates and want another bilateral treaty on sharing water from the Tigris.

The Turks have balked at that. But they want to renew a 1984

border security agreement which expired last year to give them the right of hot pursuit against Kurdish insurgents waging a savage guerrilla war in southeastern Turkey.

The Iraqis are also fighting Kurdish separatists in the mountainous northern border region.

Sources close to the talks said Sunday the Iraqis have made it clear to the Turks that they are reluctant to renew the security accord.

But they have offered to allow hot-pursuit up to 10 kilometres inside Iraq on a case-by-case basis, far short of the Turkish demand.

The Turks were understood to be willing to let Iraq extend a cordon sanitaire along its eastern border with Iran to its northern frontier with Turkey and work with Turkish forces to combat the Kurdish insurgents.

The Iraqis established the security zone along the Iranian frontier three years ago to curb attacks by Iranian-backed Kurdish guerrilla forces.

Akbulut Sunday resumed discussions with Iraq's first deputy prime minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan, and other senior officials on developing trade links.

But the sources said that the Euphrates dispute could be the main stumbling block in Turkish efforts to boost economic links with Iraq.

Hopes fade for remaining hostages

By Nassir Shirkhani
Reuter

NICOSIA — U.S. President George Bush's refusal to bargain after the release of two U.S. hostages has left Iran's moderate leaders in a rage and snuffed out hopes for an early homecoming for 15 other Western captives in Lebanon.

Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, released in the past two weeks, owe their freedom largely to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who, despite political risks at home, had resolved to end the protracted hostages crisis.

Iran and its ally Hizbollah (the Party of God) — believed to be behind hostage-taking although it denies the charge — say the six remaining American hostages could walk free if Washington pressed Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners.

Bush, who has said the United States would not make deals with hostage-takers, has thanked Iran for its role in freeing Polhill and Reed but said Washington would not move towards resuming relations with Tehran until all six were released.

He said he would not mind if Israel freed Arab prisoners. But Bush stopped short of trying to push Washington's closest ally in the Middle East into the politically painful position of having to swap the Arab prisoners for Western captives alone.

Israel has said any such exchange would have to include three Israeli servicemen held by Hizbollah.

Bush's position has incensed Rafsanjani, who has gambled on quick U.S. concessions to silence radical opponents waiting in the wings to exploit any blunder by the Iranian president.

Rafsanjani's vulnerability became apparent when hard-line clerics, opposed to any

move towards restoring ties with the U.S., expressed their outrage last week when Vice-President Atallah Mohajerani called for direct talks with Washington to settle bilateral problems.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei defused the tension by saying there would be no rapprochement with Washington and rebuking the radicals, saying the vice-president had every right to put forward his personal views.

Rafsanjani vented his anger with Washington Thursday, saying the White House had acted like "a stubborn and spoiled child" and a bully in failing to show goodwill in response to the freeing of Polhill and Reed.

He said the two Americans, each held for more than three years, had been freed on Iran's advice as a humanitarian gesture. The two were freed after two months of shuttle diploma-

cy between Tehran, Damascus and Beirut by Rafsanjani's brother, Mahmoud.

"Now the United States, instead of properly rewarding this step, has said it would not deal with hostage-takers," Rafsanjani said in a speech.

An Iranian diplomat said Washington's attitude was likely to derail the whole process of releasing the remaining hostages.

"U.S. refusal to press Israel to release the Lebanese prisoners has led to despair among the captors and this is likely to ruin efforts to release the hostages," the diplomat, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

As if to undermine Rafsanjani, Washington immediately after the Americans were freed branded Iran as a sponsor of terrorism and bestowed a medal on the captain of the U.S. cruiser Vincennes which shot

down a civilian Iran Air plane over the Gulf in 1988, killing all 290 people on board.

Washington has said these were pre-planned attacks which had nothing to do with the hostages but such explanations do not look convincing in Tehran.

"These American acts can only give more ammunition to the radical camp to blast Rafsanjani," said an Iranian journalist in Tehran.

Hostage-taking has dented Iran's image and acted as a major hurdle in its quest to mend its relations with Western nations.

Iran is in dire need of Western help to rebuild its economy and military after eight years of war with Iraq that was halted by a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Ties with the West might also deter Iraq, which Iran sees as a menacing military giant, from resuming the war.

Resolution of the hostage saga would increase pressure on Washington to release \$12 billion in Iranian assets, including coveted military hardware, frozen after the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

But the influential Tehran Times, which often expresses the views of Rafsanjani and his supporters, said in an editorial Sunday that Iran's efforts to free hostages were being misinterpreted in the West as signs of weakness.

"Some Westerners, instead of admiring Iranian humanitarian efforts, have interpreted them as signs of weakness, saying Iran's needs for Western help in reconstruction had forced Iran to help free the hostages," the newspaper said.

"Iran acted out of humanitarian convictions and its motives had nothing to do with reconstruction needs or any political deal, nor with any desire to resume talks or ties. Such position takings by the West will only prove a deterrent."

Tunisian Islamic leader not keen to end exile

ALGIERS (R) — Exiled Tunisian Islamic leader Rachid Ghannouchi accused the government Sunday of oppressing his movement and said it would be "burned" if it sought a showdown.

Ghannouchi, who went into exile a year ago, said his unrecognised Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement "did not want confrontation with the government of President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali but 'if it is imposed on us, those who ignite it will be burned'."

In Algiers for a conference on the future of Islam, he also told Reuters in response to written questions he supported a recently formed opposition leftist alliance.

"The political climate in the country, characterised by suffocation and blocked horizons, does not encourage me to return now," Ghannouchi said.

"Arbitrary and unconstitutional laws in the area of general and political freedoms are still on the books, and arbitrariness in applying them to all (opposition) political tendencies is increasing."

"Ben Ali has sought to introduce a measure of multi-party democracy since taking power from former President Habib Bourguiba in November 1987."

But the Nahdha and several other parties are still banned. The recognised parties say the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union continues to squeeze out the opposition.

The Nahdha won 13 per cent of the popular vote in April 1989 general elections.

Ghannouchi accused the government of "terrorism and repression" against his group and said it had sought to bar him entry from countries he had visited.

JORDAN TELEVISION:

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 World News
16:15 Local programme
16:20 News in English
16:25 News summary in Arabic
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Programme review
16:45 Local programmes
16:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:20 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 FIFA Soccer
21:20 News in English
22:30 The Ginger Tree

PRAYER TIMES

04:14 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Duha
16:12 Maghrob
19:24 Asr
20:51 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish
Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815917, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Gradual rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly moderate to fresh wind and calm sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN: Min./max. temp.
Amman 9/26
Aqaba 15/22
Deserts 9/26
Jordan Valley 12/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Tayser Khadr 606857
Dr. George Sabri 776751
Dr. Youssef Al Fagha 757909
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778334
Al Asana pharmacy 637025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shuqsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Fawzi Al Saleh (—)
Al Shuray pharmacy 983238

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Latif Sharbaini (—)
Khafif pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 960390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Ropline 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813812/32
Khafif Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642632
Muhassan, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6647114
Shamsi Hospital 660131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munster Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Shamsi 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (00)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Sanaa (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Istanbul (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Tunis (RJ)
19:15 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:35 Baghdad (IA)
10:20 Sanaa (LH)
11:05 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Bucharest (RO)
13:30 Kuwait (KU)
13:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (QF)
18:30 Paris (AF)
09:25 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
13:05 Athens, Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Baghdad (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
11:00 Frankfurt (LH)
11:05 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Bucharest (RO)
14:00 Kuwait (KU)
14:45 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
19:30 Baghdad (AF)

09:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
09:25 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Almonds 350/450
Apple 480/440
Banana 450/400
Banana (Mekansar) 400/350
Beans 300/250
Broad beans 240/180
Carrot 140/100
Cauliflower 220/180
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 280/220
Dates 400/350
Eggplant 170/120
Garlic 300/250
Grapefruit 280/220
Lemon 320/260
Lettuce (per one) 150/100
Mallow 360/320
Marrow (large) 180/130
Marrow (small) 200/150
Parsley 120/100
Onion (dry) 200/150
Onion (green) 200/150
Orange 340/300
Orange (Shamsi) 220/180
Peas 220/180
Pepper (hot) 220/180
Pepper (sweet) 220/180
Potato 200/150
Raspberries 120/100
Sage 400/300
Spinach 200/150
Tomatoes 220/220
Watermelon 200/150



Saleh Masadeh at a ceremony held Sunday at the Palace of Culture presents awards to outstanding policemen from the Traffic Department (Petra photo).

Jordan observes traffic day, stresses need for safe driving

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Saleh Masadeh Sunday stressed the need for concerted public and private efforts to reduce road accidents and their adverse effects on the national economy.

Addressing a public rally held at the Palace of Culture in observance of the International Traffic Day, the minister said that all citizens, young and old, officials, police, municipalities and ministries should contribute to some kind of action to put an end to loss of life and drain on the economy.

"A total of 14 deaths occur in Jordan annually for every 10,000 vehicles as compared to 1.8 to 5 for every 10,000 vehicles in advanced nations," the minister said.

"Soon the Kingdom is to have

a comprehensive national traffic strategy and a higher council on traffic which will be entrusted with implementing the strategy," the minister announced.

He said these are expected to contribute to reducing the number of accidents and the suffering of many families resulting from them.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali told the meeting that the economic loss to Jordan is estimated at JD 60 million annually as a result of the growing number of road accidents which last year stood at 18,336, an increase of 298 over the 1988 figures.

"Last year's accidents caused the death of 355 people, left behind tragedies to many families and brought about considerable economic losses," Ali said.

A citizen injured in one of last

year's accidents addressed the rally giving details about the accident which harmed him and members of his family as a result of reckless driving on the part of another motorist.

Masadeh later distributed awards to several doctors, nurses and traffic policemen who offered distinguished services in spreading public awareness about traffic and road safety.

Masadeh later announced the start of a procession of cars with posters and slogans underlining the importance of respect for traffic regulations.

The procession began at the Palace of Culture, went on to Sweilch west of Amman and then returned to the capital, passing through the downtown district and proceeding to Ain Ghazal east of the capital.

West Germany provides help in veterinary field

AMMAN (J.T.) — Diseases related to fertility and nutrition among others, lie behind the slow growth of livestock wealth in Jordan and therefore further attention should be given to veterinary services to redress the situation, according to Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary-General Sami Al Sunnaa.

"Diseases for which no immunisation is available yet in Jordan have been impeding reproduction and animal breeding programmes, constituting a major challenge to the specialists at the Ministry of Health and the private sector alike," said Sunnaa at the opening of a regional symposium on reproduction among sheep and goats.

The symposium, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the West German Technical Cooperation Agency is attended by 60 specialists, veterinarians and other technicians from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Bahrain and Jordan.

"The Ministry of Agriculture constantly encourages stockbreeders to raise sufficient farm animals and meet the demand on lean meat now imported from other countries," Sunnaa added.

"Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture is intensifying its cooperation with the West German agency at two major projects to discover and eliminate infectious diseases, provide constant

watch over the health of livestock and offer sufficient veterinary medicine and vaccines to stop the spread of disease," according to Muwaffaq Al Saoudi from the Ministry of Agriculture.

He told the meeting that the ministry was viewing with concern the lack of progress in increasing livestock in Jordan and is doing all it can to overcome the problem.

A representative from the West German agency said his country was willing to contribute to the transfer of modern technology and help Jordan improve its wealth of sheep according to Dr. Mukhlis Ammarin, director of the Jordanian centre for the production of veterinary vaccines.

Lecturers from Britain, France, West Germany and Jordan will address the five-day meeting, tackling various aspects related to animal health and ways to promote reproduction.

"The participants will also make tours of Jordanian veterinary centres," Ammarin added.

The University of Jordan meanwhile announced that a one-day seminar to tackle issues related to the development of arid regions will take place Monday. Australian specialists will be among those addressing the meeting that dwells mainly on production of cereals and animal fodder.

April produce export declines

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan last month exported 28.5 thousand tonnes of vegetables and fruits, together worth JD 8.76 million and most of the exports went to the Gulf states, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

An AMO statement said vegetables accounted for 72 per cent of the total exports, earning Jordan JD 6.4 million.

Compared to the previous month, the statement pointed out, April's exports registered a decline of 16.6 thousand tonnes. Jordan exported to the Gulf states mainly tomatoes, oranges, cucumbers and lemons.

Last month also witnessed a drop of 7.3 thousand tonnes in exports compared to April of 1989, the statement added.

It attributed the decline in exports last month to a drop in the volume of crops in March and April and the prevailing weather conditions during April.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia bought most of Jordan's vegetables and fruits last month, followed by the United Arab Emi-

rates, Bahrain and then Lebanon, Iraq and the European Community countries, the statement said.

Last year, Jordan exported a total of 752,000 tonnes of vegetables and fruits worth JD 103.6 million, and imported 47,000 tonnes of crops from Arab and foreign states to meet local market demand, according to AMO.

According to the AMO bulletin, Jordan's last year agricultural exports registered the highest figures in the 1980s, exceeding the exports of 1982 when Jordan exported a total of 514,000 tonnes.

Columnists in local dailies and public complaints published in the press have been drawing attention to the need for proper measures to provide sufficient quantities of fruits and vegetables to the local markets which now lack them.

Minister of Agriculture Saleh Masadeh said in a statement last month that the high price of vegetables and fruits and the lack of sufficient quantities were partly due to a monopoly exercised by a group of merchants.

Doctors stress the need for unifying health services levels

AMMAN (J.T.) — The issue of dissolving or not dissolving the National Medical Institution was the main subject of discussion at a meeting attended by several doctors from Bashir Hospital, and Hussein Medical Centre.

The participants were in agreement that dissolving the institution would deepen the financial problems of the various government hospitals throughout the Kingdom, because it would put them under extra financial pressures.

The doctors therefore called for appointing a new, efficient leadership, representing the various medical sectors and stressed the need for unifying the various

health services levels, through the application of the national comprehensive health insurance plan.

The participating doctors called for applying justice to all health workers by introducing a unified recruitment system and giving incentive to hardworkers.

They also called for giving equal treatment to patients at the various hospitals, irrespective of their positions. The participants also asked for an end to the waste of money, avoiding the heavy spending on purchasing costly, sophisticated equipment and to allocate funds to projects capable of improving the primary health care in hospitals and health centres.

Centre for agriculture approves annual plan, budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the board of directors and the executive committee of the Regional Centre for Agricultural Reform and Rural Development in the Near East Sunday held a meeting in Amman and adopted the executive committee's recommendations on steps to be taken to encourage other countries in the region to join the centre's membership.

Participants also approved the committee's plan of action and its budget for this year. Chairman of the centre's board Mohammad Al Suqour said the board approved the rules governing the appointment of the

centre's director and deputy director. The board elected Ahmad Battah from Jordan as director of the centre for a three-year term.

Taking part in the centre's board meetings are representatives of Pakistan, Syria, Egypt and Jordan, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The centre, based in Allan in the outskirts of Salt, will serve as an institution providing expertise, counselling services and technical support for the Near East countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

★ Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awda Club, Zarqa.

FILM

★ Feature film entitled "Le the an harem d'archimede" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "Drugs in the Arab World" by Colonel Hisham Al Qaid at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visits the Jordanian Design and Trade Centre (Petra photo)

Queen visits handicraft centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Sunday paid an informal working visit to the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the commercial arm of the National Handicraft Development Project (NHDP).

The Queen acquainted herself with the various lines of products on display at the centre's new location in Shmeisani district and the NHDP's training plan for 1990.

Activities in which the NHDP is currently engaged include product development, sales promotion and project coordination, all of which were discussed during the visit.

Established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the NHDP is largely financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The project seeks to professionalise the country's handicraft marketing activities by encouraging producers to respond to existing demand, reduce reliance on informal networks and charity sales outlets, initiate mainstream selling activities and establish acceptable standards of operation.

To date the project had focused on textiles, weaving and embroidery where the largest number of individuals are employed in Jordan's handicraft sector.

Assistance has been provided to several voluntary organisations and private entrepreneurs, reaching more than 800 beneficiaries in Amman, Irbid and Madaba.

The project has recently established the Jordan Design and Trade Centre to further expand the market for the Kingdom's

handicraft products. The centre is a multi-function facility for the development of new products, for marketing, and for training in such areas as management, industrial production and retail merchandising.

According to NHF, the centre staff will attract buyers through a promotion programme designed to maximise exposure in local, regional and international markets.

Buyers will then be able to place orders for existing merchandise or to work with the centre's design staff to develop their own exclusive lines.

The centre will also develop an active cultural programme that will engage well-known architects, painters and other artists in developing entire product lines to which their names can be attached.

Conference to tackle the open market strategy issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Finance Basel Jarad Sunday opened a conference on USAID (United States Agency for International Development) assistance programmes geared toward supporting open markets and open economies. Delegates from the private sectors in Jordan and Egypt, and USAID staff from Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Oman, Pakistan, and the United States who work with private sector programmes are attending the four-day workshop.

Roscoe S. Suddarth, the United States ambassador to Jordan, welcomed the participants. "We want to continue to help Jordan prosper as an anchor for stability and secure relationships in the Middle East," he said. "One significant means for us to do that is in our joint efforts with the government of Jordan to stimulate the vigor of Jordan's private sector."

As an introduction to the private sector in Jordan, the delegates toured businesses including several in the Sahab Industrial Estate, two handicrafts activities, and the Agricultural Marketing Organisation's Agricultural Marketing Development project activities in the Jordan Valley, all of which have received USAID assistance.

During their meetings, participants will discuss policy reform and business regulation, trade and investment, financial markets, and how to operationalise an open market development strategy.

Seminar to review blood related issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Blood transfusion and ensuring good quality blood at blood banks is the theme of a five-day regional seminar which opened in Amman Sunday under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Jordan.

A total of 11 countries from the Mediterranean region are represented at the meeting which is designed to enrich the participants' knowledge with the outcome of scientific research, analyses and studies conducted in blood transfusion processes, according to Dr. Janet Mirza, director of the Blood Bank at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Tawfiq Lobani, director of medical affairs at the Ministry of

Health, who opened the meeting on behalf of Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, underlined the need for utmost care to be taken to avoid negative results in blood transfusion processes.

Topics related to blood donation, storage of blood and blood transfusion and related issues will be reviewed by the participants.

Jordan, Sweden study cooperation in trade

By Ziyad Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on marketing Jordanian products in Sweden will open at the Amman Chamber of Industry Monday with the participation of Swedish experts and Jordanian economists and businessmen.

The chamber's president Khalid Abu Hassan said prospects of exporting textiles and clothing to Sweden would be among the main topics for discussion.

The seminar has been organised by the chamber, in cooperation with the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade under the umbrella of the embassy of Sweden in Jordan.

Four Swedish specialists who arrived in Amman Saturday will conduct talks with Jordanian businessmen in the course of the two-day meeting.

According to a Swedish embassy press release, the meeting will provide an opportunity for Jordanians to analyse Swedish economy and foreign trade.

After having had similar seminars in almost twenty developing nations, Jordan as a newly industrialised country, is the first Arab

state to cooperate with Sweden and have this seminar organised in Amman, said the press release.

It said that a considerable interest had already been shown by a group of Jordanian exporters who explored the Swedish market during March 1990 and returned with favourable impressions concerning possibilities of business cooperation between the two countries.

Sweden's ambassador to Jordan, Lars Lonnback, Abu Hassan, and Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz will be among the personalities to address the opening session.

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Ministry steps in to resolve union conflict

(Continued from page 1)

"The Municipal Workers Union has among its members two categories: civil servants and daily paid workers, who number around 100," Rashid said explaining that only the latter are eligible for membership in the union by law but that this was not applied and the present quota of five representative members of the union in the central council "is not proportional to its legal membership."

He said his bloc was calling for the reduction of representatives of both unions from five to one representative each.

"The central council, after all the necessary and legal rectifications would be reduced from 95 representatives to a maximum of 70 representatives," Rashid said.

Rashid, president of the Banking, Insurance and Accountants Union, also charged that many unions were "obviously involved in wrongdoing."

"A study of their budgets will prove this," he said.

Although he would not name the unions he charged with these violations, Rashid said that "these unions do not have

a budget proportional to their publicised number of members."

"If a union made up of 1,000 representatives charges 500 fils a month for membership fees that union should have a budget of at least JD 6,000," he pointed out.

He said that "these unions" do not have funds "because most of their members are not legally eligible for membership."

Although the minister of labour would not comment on the development of the row in the FJLU, sources close to the ministry revealed that "union accounts in two banks have been frozen by the ministry for further investigation of their budgets."

The sources added that the minister had informed the council's secretary general, Khaddam, that representatives of FJLU will not be invited to a Geneva meeting later this year "if this problem was not solved and new elections were held."

Prime Ministry sources told the Jordan Times that "an initial decision has already been taken to review the legal violations committed by some of the unions and hold new elections," but that the decision was pending the reply from

Khaddam to the demands of the democratic bloc.

CBJ says no devaluation of dinar

(Continued from page 1)

rates, and any rumour about any devaluation of the dinar is totally untrue and groundless and exists only in the sick minds of those who spread them," Nabulsi told Petra.

The CBJ governor called on the public to be aware of such rumours and fight them. "Acquiring foreign currency at prices other than set by the CBJ can only harm those involved in such transactions," he warned.

A senior official, speaking last week when rumours of an impending devaluation hit a peak, also ruled out that the government was planning such a step. "We can categorically deny that any such move is being planned," he said. "The present exchange rate of the dinar has stabilised, and there is no need for any devaluation," he stressed.

Jordan Times

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Weekly political pulse

Palestinian unity is key to intifada triumph

By Waleed Sadi

The recent call by Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on Hamas to unite with all other Palestinian groups in one collective effort against Israeli occupation and under the banner of the Unified National Leadership is a timely and urgent initiative. There is nothing that can frustrate the Palestinian struggle for freedom and self-determination than to sow division and discord among various Palestinian groups. Surely the Palestinians who have been relentlessly waging their glorious intifada against Israeli occupation know only too well that Israel

of the Palestinians and seeks and wants nothing more than to have the Palestinians "fight" one another. As a matter of fact Israel's only hope to strangle the intifada and frustrate Palestinian national aspirations for independence is to succeed in breaking down the Palestinian resolve by sowing division among them.

The most beautiful thing about the Palestinian struggle for independence is the fact that it encompasses all faiths and national trends. Any attempt to monopolise the national struggle now or ever would only undermine the chances of the Palestinians ever getting there and succeeding in establishing their state on the firm

foundation of tolerance and pluralism. Anything else would only serve the cause of the enemies of the Palestinians and play into their hands. The Palestinians have a leadership in the FLO which has carried the banner of the struggle for such a long time and now, therefore, is the time for all Palestinians of all faiths and persuasions to hold hands more firmly than ever. To be sure one is not asking for anything new from the Palestinian people for they have always prided themselves in living together in complete harmony irrespective of their differing doctrines or religions. To reverse now this outstanding tradition is to deal a death blow to the Palestinians' cause

and aspirations. In this vein, one would hope that the leadership of the FLO would be more outspoken on this issue in an effort to stop the apparent drifting that is occurring within the Palestinian ranks in the occupied territories. The most dangerous thing to do in the face of this emerging threat to Palestinian unity is to ignore it. In fact the cleavage already happening among the Palestinians under occupation is more serious than meets the eye. It would not be such a bad idea to put this issue on the agenda of the next PLO meeting with a view to rectifying it before it gets out of hand. An all-out confrontation among the differing Palestinian groups must

be avoided at all costs. Persuasion and reason must be the only tools utilised to bring back harmony and unity among the Palestinian groups. The sooner this reconciliation effort can begin, the easier it would be to deal with. The Palestinians are a people with multi-faiths and multi-political beliefs and there is no escape from creating a pluralistic society. Any departure from this course will surely spell disaster to the entire Palestinian cause. And the sooner this issue is settled among the Palestinians, the easier it would be to formulate the national charter of the future state of Palestine. The least that the Palestinian people need to agree on even at this early stage is to avoid

Lebanisation of their country. The solidarity between the Palestinian Muslims and Christians, demonstrated recently over the Israeli trespassing into Greek Orthodox property in Jerusalem, should continue to guide the two faiths in their endeavours to stand up to Israeli occupation and oppression. This brotherhood between the two religions has won international acclaim and infinitely served the Palestinian cause worldwide. The Palestinian struggle needs the understanding and support of the community of nations, and maintaining harmony between Hamas and the mainstream PLO groups would most certainly lend support to this aspiration.

Need to adopt spirit of new times

SAUDI Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz is adding the weight of Riyadh to the ongoing efforts to heal the festering wounds between Syria and Iraq in a bid to convene the proposed Arab summit. Thus far, the deep rift between Damascus and Baghdad has eluded all efforts to reconcile the two countries. The primary casualty of this apparent failure is of course the anticipated Arab summit itself on which much hope has been pinned.

One would have thought that the absence of Arab agreement would have served as the very impetus for holding an Arab summit rather the other way around. Had there been a total harmony among the positions of the Arab countries, there would have been a lesser need to convene an Arab summit. The fact that Damascus and Baghdad are not yet on speaking terms should have been taken as the very reason why the summit should be held somewhere in the Arab World. And as Syria and Iraq constitute the backbone of the Arab Eastern Front, it is imperative that an Arab summit be convened not because the two countries are on the best of terms but rather because they are not communicating with one another properly.

This whole matter of reconciling seasonal if not chronic Arab differences brings to the fore the urgency of institutionalising Arab relations. As things stand now, inter-Arab relations can hardly be called a solid institution. Arab countries need to comprehend the spirit of the new times and the contemporary basis for developing relations between themselves. After all, Arab leaders are servants of Arab interests and are not the objective of these relations. On such rational basis, whatever ill-feeling that may still exist among two or more Arab governments must not be allowed to jeopardise the overall Arab interests. Otherwise it would seem that the national interests of the Arab World would continue to be hostage to inter-governmental disputes among Arab countries.

There is still hope that the current efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq would bear fruit in the form of holding an Arab summit. The sooner this result is achieved the better for everybody concerned.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i on Sunday tackled King Hussein's brief visit to Baghdad where he discussed with President Saddam Hussein current Arab affairs and clearing the atmosphere between Baghdad and Damascus. The King must have also discussed the question of holding an Arab summit, deemed necessary under the current circumstances and in view of the challenges posed to the Arab Nation, the paper said. Differences among Arab states should be drowned for the sake of convening this important summit, and all side disputes among Arab leaders should be put aside for the purpose of pooling Arab resources to confront the common danger, the paper continued. To confront the common challenges, the Arabs have to be united and should undertake meaningful action to safeguard their national rights especially as the Arab leaderships realise the vast potential in the Arab World that can be exploited to serve national goals, the paper added. Only intrinsic Arab force said the paper can help the Arab countries to confront and successfully deal with aggression, and for this sake all inter-Arab differences must be eliminated.

Writing in AL Ra'i daily Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the Soviet perestroika seems to have reached Algeria where changes similar to those happening in the Soviet Union are taking place. The writer notes that the government in Algeria has allowed 23 political parties to be created, and a gradual relaxation of links between the ruling National Liberation Front and the government is taking place. The writer says that one of the political groups is the Islamic group which seeks to establish a 100 per cent Islamist rule, something which is bound to be opposed by many politicians who believe that pluralism, solving economic problems and democratisation are more important and must take place in their country. The writer says that the politicians in Algeria have a heavy problem at hand, and that is how to benefit from democratic rule to improve the conditions of Algerians, while facing the extremist Islamists who are trying to make it more difficult for them to do so by insisting on assuming unopposed rule. The writer reminds his readers of the fact that it is the one-party rule that the Algerians are trying to change because they find it difficult to lead the country towards progress under such system.

Al Dustour daily commented on the King's visit to Baghdad Saturday and said that it was one more link in his long chain of activities to bring about solidarity among the Arabs. The King's talks are clearly designed to bring consensus among the Arabs about the need for a summit meeting to deal with the challenges facing the nation, the paper noted. The King's efforts in Baghdad are part of a pan-Arab endeavour involving the president of Egypt who visited Damascus and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia who paid a similar visit to Syria in a bid to end the differences between Baghdad and Damascus and pave the way for a successful summit, the paper added. It said that the Arab arena is now rife with urgent moves to ensure joint action benefitting the whole Arab Nation.

Appeal for help:

Accommodate Palestinian students, scholars

By Dr. Nancy S. Pyle

The writer is Associate Director for External Relations, Harvard Institute for International Development. She presented the above paper to the seminar on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East which was held in Amman May 5-6.

ALL universities on the West Bank have been closed for the last two years. That closure order, a form of collective punishment by the Israeli authorities in response to the intifada, was extended recently for three more months. High schools in the occupied territories have also suffered; opening sporadically, always in fear of interference and interruptions. Fragile peace initiatives focus on the overriding political issues. Policy-makers on both sides and the international media as well as consumed by the uncertain progress of the peace process. The residual effect is that a generation of Palestinian youths is at risk of being denied its right to an education.

If the basic tenets of the Geneva Convention are to be honoured, it falls to "Third Parties" to accept responsibility for promoting interim solutions to augment the Palestinian educational system.

The nature of the problem

Although formal classroom education does not exist today in West Bank universities, an underground series of activities are keeping the spirit of learning alive. Physics labs are being set up in private kitchens. Computer centres thrive in the stairwells of rundown buildings. Teachers

bury banned books in their gardens, then dig them up to give a class. Scholars meet surreptitiously, students take extraordinary risks to get to a class. Regular lectures are the order of the day. A less motivated population would have given up, but the Palestinians are just getting stronger. The determination of these people merits global attention and support.

Many students vowed to remain on the West Bank to complete their studies. As the closure drags on, they are having second thoughts. They are considering going abroad, not to abandon their people and their cause forever, but rather as part of a long-term nation-building strategy.

The dilemma for Palestinians is how to sustain the intifada, an essentially non-lethal form of civil disobedience, while at the same time demanding the re-opening of the universities. The dilemma for the Israelis is how to dole out a collective punishment in response to the intifada, thereby maintaining political order, and at the same time re-opening the universities without losing face. It is a humanitarian problem that will demand political solutions.

The intent of this paper is not to suggest a resolution to the political nature of this problem. Rather, it is to call the situation to the attention of both the Arab World and the Western powers and to suggest a number of short term responses that might buy time while the involved parties seek sustainable solutions.

International obligations

The closure of West Bank universities should have sounded a warning bell throughout the Arab World and in the homes of Palestinians around the globe. Temporary relief in the form of financial support for the institutions, for alternative educational opportunities for the students, and for more places in other Arab universities, has barely been forthcoming. Arab universities face overcrowding by national student populations and aren't willing to deal with the potential political outrage of reserving precious places for Palestinians. Western universities have turned their backs on the situation, using the security risk as an excuse to scale down interaction with West Bank universities. West Bank academicians have mounted a noble effort to keep a semblance of higher education alive, no thanks to the rest of the world.

International educators have a unique opportunity to make an immediate contribution towards the eventual political viability of the Palestinian people. The challenge of the closure might even be regarded as a blessing in disguise. The previous generation of Palestinian academicians was disproportionately trained in second rate Eastern block institutions. The strength of any future Palestinian state will depend in some measure upon the institutional capacity of its own universities to produce an enlightened next generation of decision-makers and scholars.

It is naive and unrealistic to suggest that the Palestinian university-age population be moved

en masse to other institutions for the duration of the closure. It is entirely plausible to suggest, however, that leading universities around the globe could collectively train the most promising West Bank scholars in a way which would make a critical difference at the margin.

Let moral outrage be accompanied by concrete offers. Money is needed for everything: to improve English language instruction and thereby enable the most gifted students to be competitive for entrance to Western institutions; to subsidise the cost of tests and application fees; to sponsor tuition, fees and travel expenses. Information about application procedures and standardised test requirements is woefully hard to come by on the West Bank. Admissions officers must be sensitised to the incomparable circumstances under which candidates would be applying. Palestinian students have a well-deserved collective reputation for hard work and high motivation. We are not asking universities to take great risks in admitting these students. We are simply asking them to be flexible in light of the current circumstances. Given a fair chance, a critical mass of the West Bank's most promising university students should gain entrance to other institutions to complete their education. The costs of such an effort are not monumental. The investment promises significant returns.

I ask all of you in this room as scholars, as politicians, and as human beings, please accept your individual and collective responsibility to both create interim opportunity for Palestinian students and to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli authorities to

reopen the universities. Let us resolve this issue as a small step forward in bringing peace to the region.

MASS ARRESTS,
DEPORTATIONS,
PASS LAWS,
HOUSES BLOWN UP,
KILLINGS,
PRISONERS BRUTALIZED,
CENSORSHIP,
CURFEWS —
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TO GIVE
SO MUCH SUPPORT
TO A COUNTRY
LIKE THIS ?

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DEMOCRACY
IN THE AREA



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LETTERS

To the Editor

Cruelty

Patricia M. Madi's letter to the Editor, (Jordan Times, May 1,) "Have Mercy," was touching. It is true that we must all be kind to animals. Harming animals for enjoyment is cruel.

However, Jordan is not the only country where cruelty to animals is practiced. It is a perversion of mal-adjusted people all over the world. Unfortunately, loving animals does not necessarily mean that all animal lovers are lovers of their fellow humans. Many atrocities have been committed against humanity by those very people who lavish attention as well as money and food on their private pets.

While we may all shed a tear or two for that poor cat that has been hanged or that puppy that was stoned to death, let us not forget the more tragic drama of human torture that is daily enacted in Palestine, in Lebanon, in South Africa and many other parts of our troubled world. Let us not only care what happens to mute unprotected animals as is our Islamic duty, but let us care what happens to children who never have a chance to grow up. Children are an endangered species too. Islam teaches us to have love for all living things. However, we must take care that we are not over-run by an over-population of dogs and cats.

We must practice conservation in all aspects of our environment, but at the same time, we should not let our concern for animals grow out of focus and make them a prime target for our devotion. Cruelty to animals or any other innocent being can never be condoned, but we cannot solely voice concern for poor animals while so many people are suffering everywhere.

One last thought. Patricia was incorrect when she said, "A woman was admitted to heaven on account of a cat, which was thirsty, and she gave her water."

The correct Hadith from Sahih Al Bukhari is that the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said, "A woman was tortured and was put in Hell because of a cat which she had kept locked up until it died of hunger. The woman was told by the gatekeeper of Hell, 'you did not feed nor water it when you locked it up, nor did you set it free to eat the insects of the earth.'"

The Prophet (PBUH) did say however, "while a man was walking, he felt thirsty and went down a well and drank water from it. On coming out of the well, he saw a dog panting and eating mud because of excessive thirst. The man said, 'This (dog) is afflicted with the same problem as I was suffering from.' He (went down the well), filled his shoe with water, caught hold of it with his teeth and climbed up and watered the dog. Allah accepted his (good) deed and forgave him (his sins)."

E. Yaghi
Amman

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Palestinian and Israeli filmmakers find common ground in struggle

By Khalid Mandine
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Rashid Mashrawi, a Palestinian, and Haim Bouzalgo, an Israeli Jew, came from different traditions, yet as filmmakers, they find they have much in common. They both must struggle to find funds to make the kind of films that are important to them — highly personal stories that reflect the conflict in their region.

Mashrawi's "The Shelter" and Bouzalgo's "Fictitious Marriage" were highlights of the fourth annual Washington, D.C. International Film Festival, held April 25 to May 6. The festival showcased 57 films representing 30 countries.

The entries included an Indian film, Satyajit Ray's "Enemy of the People." The script, adapted from Henrik Ibsen's play, tells the story of a crusading doctor who makes enemies by trying to warn of dangerous pollution in a temple's holy water.

"The Shelter" tells the story of two Palestinian construction workers in Tel Aviv who are separated generationally and spiritually. The older worker is 45 years old, has a family, is apolitical and loyal to his Israeli Jewish boss. The younger worker is 25, is actively involved in the Palesti-

nian struggle and hates working for his Israeli Jewish boss. These two men spend a night together in a worker's shelter, talking about their lives and watching the activities of other Arabs and Jews on the outside through a keyhole.

"The Shelter" depicts the contradictions many Palestinian workers live with in order to support their families, Mashrawi explained in an interview.

"There are many things we lose just for food," he said. Many of the Palestinians working in Israel "don't think about politics... They prefer to forget about themselves, to give to the children," he added.

The message of "The Shelter" is that living with this kind of contradiction "should not be part of normal life," he noted.

His films cannot "help the political situation," Mashrawi said. "I am not trying to talk about peace, or say 'wake up' to the Arabs or say that Jews are bad," he pointed out. His film "is just about people."

"Everyone knows what is happening on the streets," Mashrawi said, referring to the intifada. Through film, he hopes to show what is happening "on the inside" and during "the night."

Mashrawi's next project will be a feature entitled "The Curfew," which will focus on three families

involved in the intifada. It will be filmed in the occupied territories and Mashrawi hopes to start production in about eight months.

Asked what are the biggest challenges he faces as a filmmaker, Mashrawi was quick to answer, "My only problem is money."

Very often he is unable to pay his crew, who will work for him anyway. His crew is a mix of Israeli Jews and Palestinians.

Haim Bouzalgo also says finding money for his films is his biggest obstacle. Bouzalgo blames this on the Israeli public who would rather go to American films than Israeli ones.

He said that many Israeli films deal with the conflicts and problems of the region — an issue most Israelis are saturated with on television and in the newspapers. "They don't want to see it on the big screen," he noted.

"Fictitious Marriage" deals with a Jew who leaves his family in Jerusalem, pretends to go to New York and ends up in Tel Aviv impersonating an Arab worker.

While the Jew is in Tel Aviv, a security guard finds his abandoned suitcase in the Jerusalem airport and tries to get an explanation for the disappearance.

The abandoned suitcase at the airport is a metaphor for the crisis inside Israel today, Bouzalgo ex-

plained. Bouzalgo said his film deals with an "identity crisis." He noted that he is 37 years old and Israel is 42 years old. "This is a good age to have a crisis," he said.

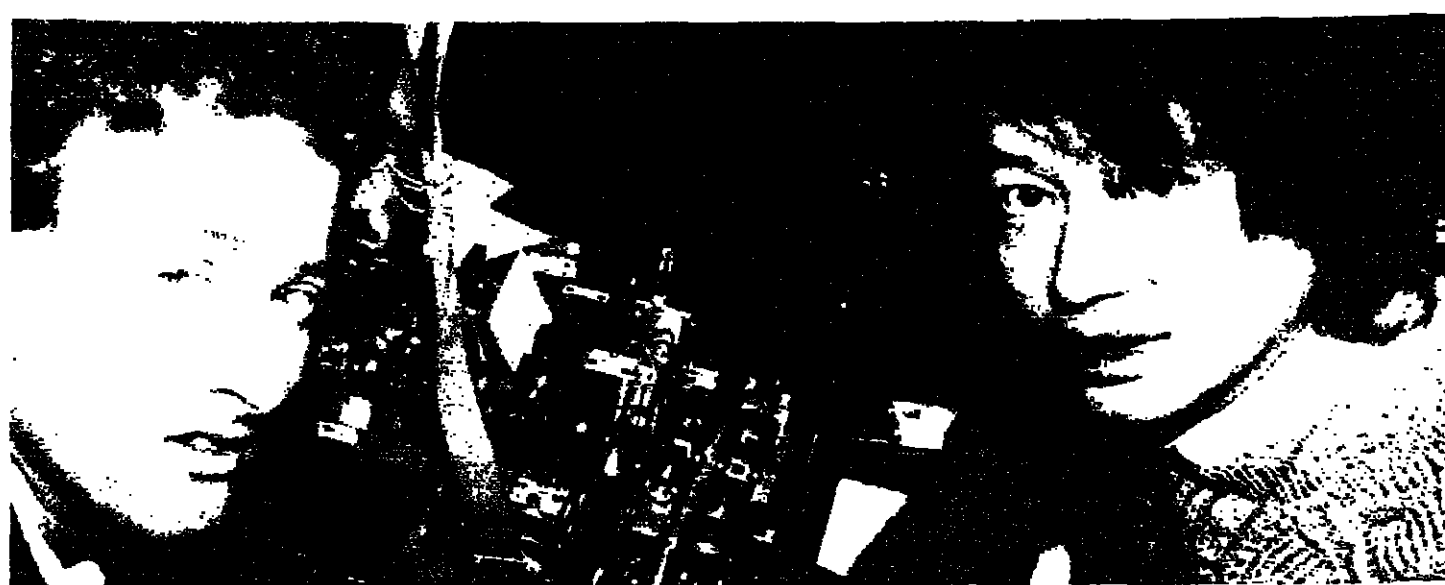
His film reflects the "chronicle of confusion" in Israel today, the filmmaker said. In the film there is an "Israeli who wants to be an Arab, an Arab who wants to be an Israeli, and a girl who wants to be an American. Everyone is not satisfied and trying to be someone else," he noted.

Bouzalgo's next film will be about Israel's involvement in Lebanon. He said politics does not play a role in getting government funding for a movie. His project on Lebanon has received government funds and Rashid Mashrawi's films have also received some government funding, he noted.

Government funding, however, is small and infrequent, he noted. The search for backers continues for all filmmakers — Israelis and Palestinians — Bouzalgo said.

The continuous struggle to get money for films does not necessarily promote a community of filmmakers in Israel, Bouzalgo pointed out.

"We all know each other, but we are fighting apart," he said.



Inventor Alan Huang (right) and scientist Michael Prise foresee the immediate use of their revolutionary laser computer into hybrid systems including conventional computer parts (WNL).

New-wave technology — the laser computer

By Philippa Neave

HOLMDEL, New Jersey (WNL) — Picture the interior of a computer: An impenetrable mish-mash of tiny wires. The electricity in these wires is what carries information from one part of the computer to another. Now imagine a computer in which there are no wires: Experts say it's not science fiction anymore.

Scientists working at Bell Laboratories, the renowned research arm of American Telephone and Telephone (AT&T), are trying hard to make it happen. A research team headed by electronics engineer Alan Huang recently unveiled an experimental machine that uses light beams instead of electricity to carry information. "Light is not only faster but can carry a lot more information than electrons, between 10,000 and 100,000 times more," said the breezy 41-year-old Huang, who was born in San Francisco to Chinese parents.

Nothing in the world travels faster than photons, as particles of light are known. The machine, put together in AT&T's vast research center, has been hailed as the world's first prototype of what is known as an optical computer and is considered a major breakthrough in optical research that started in the late 1960s. The machine looks nothing like the conventional computer, with its circuit boards and silicon chips. It is a series of lenses, mirrors and laser beams that are so small they are invisible to the naked eye. In only three years the scientists have been able to shrink the size of the computer from a daunting one by 3.5 metres to that of a conventional chess board. Said team member Michael Prise, who helped design and put together the revolutionary machine: "We have a lot of ideas about how to make it smaller and use fewer components; there is a lot more engineering to do."

As it stands, the machine is in its infant stage and could perform about the same task as a microchip in a washing machine. But the future seems to hold tremendous possibilities for optical computers. The advantages of using light rather than electrons are manifold. "To go from one bit of a computer to another electronically, you have to have a wire and fill it up with electric charge. Optically, you're there instantly," explains Scottish-born Prise, who has been working at Bell Labs for more than four

years. He compared the flow of electrons through wire to a garden hose that first has to fill up before the water comes out the other end and has to be continually filled for the flow to continue.

Another advantage of optics is that there is no distortion when photons meet. Says Huang, "One aspect of what is magic about light beams is that they can pass through each other without interfering with each other." The process has been compared to a traffic intersection, where vehicles could cross through each other without colliding. In contrast, electrons radiate and cause interference on electronic pathways, which has meant design constraints in conventional computers.

Equally advantageous is the fact that light, unlike electricity, is totally silent. "You can't listen to it electronically," explains Huang. "If you type on an electronic typewriter or computer, it gives off radio waves; I can eavesdrop and listen to electronic noise. This doesn't make any sense." This feature is seen as a major advantage in terms of protecting computer data and insulating the system from the electromagnetic fallout of a nuclear explosion. But, warns Huang, although optical computers such as that built now in the lab bench are still about 20 years away from commercial applications, they are unlikely to remain tamper-resistant forever. "I don't know how long it will last, there are some very clever people around!" Huang says.

Although research into optical technology has been under way for decades in various countries — especially Japan, the USSR, Belgium and West Germany — until now no one had been able to put together a functioning processor. However, light beams are already widely used in telecommunications systems in which fiber-optic cables carry long-distance telephone conversations across oceans and continents. But the switching process that finds the correct telephone number when that number is dialed still relies on electronic devices.

Optical computers, with their high-speed potential, could revolutionize the telecommunications industry. Says Huang: "A lens some 1 inch (2.5 centimetres) in diameter could hold 10,000 light beams. That would correspond to all the telephone wires in the world being used at the same time."

Until recently, one of the challenges in building an optical computer was to produce a device that would perform the task of the electronic switches directly, without having to transform the light beam into an electronic message.

Conventional electronic computers use the digital system, in which the flow of information is controlled by a multitude of tiny electronic switches known as transistors that turn on and off at extremely high speeds, translating into "zero" or "one" number codes. The codes are then processed by micro-electronic circuits on silicon chips. The optical computer is equipped with an array of lenses, mirrors and special materials that either reflect or absorb the light, creating a similar "switch" effect.

What the scientists at AT&T's labs achieved by using light is to accelerate the switching, and thus increase the amount of information that can be processed. This called for a new system based on light-sensitive switches, known as Self-Electro-Optic Effect Devices, or S-SEEDS. These can reportedly switch on and off a billion times in a second. Huang noted that the development of these devices is a key to the new computer. "Scientific papers in the 1960s said it was impossible, that it was never going to happen, that optics would never get there," he said with a grin.

S-SEEDS, which process the information sent by the light beams, are located on a chip about 3mm by 3mm that was specially developed in another section of the Bell Labs. The chips are not made of silicon, as they are in electronic computers, but of a material called gallium arsenide, which acts as a semiconductor.

Although today's most sophisticated integrated circuits have up to a 4 million electronic switches, the prototype built by Prise and a team of four other scientists uses for arrays of 32 devices. However, the capacity of the chip is a lot greater. "We now have chips with 2,000 different devices, and we could build many more," added the 30-year-old Scot.

The potential of the optical computer is far greater than the prototype's capacity, and one of the questions being asked is whether the optical computer

could address what is known as parallel processing. Instead of solving a given problem in a step-by-step process, in parallel processing the problem is divided into pieces so that the computer can process different parts of it simultaneously. It is like putting many brains to work on elements of the same problem at the same time.

Explained Huang: "In all computers they are trying to achieve parallel processing. It is like having many computers talking to each other. It is communication-intensive, so they are looking for ways to communicate better. With photonics, we can pass more information faster and the different parts can be linked more closely." While the optical computer's capacity to achieve parallel processing has left many scientists doubtful, Huang is optimistic: "We now have a very good understanding of it. We are theoretically providing all the connections and we are now working on getting all the parts talking to each other at the right time."

Another advantage of the new computer is that it uses little energy. The prototype is currently operating on 100 milliwatts — one thousandth of the power burnt by an ordinary 100-watt light bulb. Huang's immediate plans for putting his invention to work is to integrate the system into parts of conventional computers to make a hybrid. It will make electronic computers work faster without causing them to overheat. Farther down the road, optical computers may take over tasks currently performed by supercomputers, such as recognizing human faces in security systems and retrieving vast quantities of data in a very short time.

"Everyone thought it was too crazy, that it couldn't be done," Huang said. "They thought it was too advanced, that it would be really far in the future." Although he admits that it may take decades to introduce the technology into machines used in daily life, such as personal computers, cars and domestic appliances, Huang is confident that "soon there will be more lasers in the home than electronics." Concludes the dynamic scientist, who says he has other inventions on the boil: "Just when the baby is born, you don't ask how fast he's going to run a mile."

W. Europe's 'night of barbarism' began May 10, '40

By Paul Verschuur
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Half a century ago, Adolf Hitler's death machine rolled west into France and the low countries, unleashing a five-year nightmare unprecedented in history.

On May 10, 1940, bombers, tanks and two million Wehrmacht and SS soldiers ushered in what British wartime leader Winston Churchill called the "long night of barbarism."

The onslaught caught its victims unprepared, with the Dutch hoping for a repeat of their World War I neutrality and the French relying on their massive, but ineffectual fortification, the Maginot Line.

It took Nazi Germany only four days to conquer the Netherlands, whose patchwork defenses were overrun and its fighting spirit pummeled into capitulation by the carpet bombing of Rotterdam.

In April, with war in the air, Cornelis Stam of Amsterdam had been drafted into the Dutch army — and issued an 1895 rifle.

Europe's two decades of peace had ended eight months earlier, when Germany's blitzkrieg invasion of Poland brought declarations of war from Britain and France, but no large-scale engagements.

"We didn't do a damn thing, really. We were just sitting in the sun," Stam recalled of his weeks in the Dutch army.

When news of the German invasion came on May 10, officers "had us march around at four in the morning, toting our rifles on our shoulders, out of sheer madness," he said.

By dawn that day, Hitler's bombers had destroyed the

Netherlands' major military airfields, while his troops poured over the borders.

The same day, German tanks led by Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt began their sweep through Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France towards the Atlantic Ocean. They met little resistance.

Belgium surrendered May 28 after 6,552 of its civilians and 6,236 soldiers had been killed. Luxembourg's government had fled to London May 10.

Unlike Wilhelm, Belgium's King Leopold III decided to stay under German occupation, which ultimately compromised him so deeply that he was forced to abdicate in 1950.

Soon after Belgium's capitulation, German troops began their push south towards Paris.

Some 70,000 French troops died in the futile six-week campaign to stop the Germans.

To protect itself from Hitler, France was relying on the heavily fortified Maginot Line along the German border, a static defense called from World War I tactics.

But German tanks swept around the northern end of the Maginot line to France by cutting through Belgium's supposedly impenetrable Ardennes Forest.

Like the French, the Dutch had relied on a traditional defense, one last used successfully in the 16th century war for independence against Spain.

The water line was a ring of flooded land surrounding the nation's largest cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the Hague. But the defense didn't account for waves of German paratroopers.

"It was a very fine morning... the pilots were waving at us... they'd been told they were pro-

tecting us from the British," said Arie Dekker, who witnessed the paratroop assault as a 15-year-old office boy near Rotterdam.

On May 13, Dutch Queen Wilhelmina and her government fled to London.

On May 14, when organized resistance was all but crushed, the Luftwaffe returned to Rotterdam for a pre-announced bombing raid that levelled the city centre and killed about 800.

"The sun totally vanished. At first we thought it was a thunderstorm," said Arie's wife, Cornelia, whose family lived in the Rotterdam-area town of Krimpen aan den IJssel.

In four days, the German offensive had killed 2,600 Dutch civilians and 2,000 soldiers, but it ushered in an unimaginable occupation horror of starvation, slave labour and death camp deportations.

Meanwhile, von Rundstedt's tanks had linked up with another German army group from the north to encircle British and French troops near the northern French port city of Dunkirk.

Despite concentrated German air and artillery attacks, 340,000 allied troops managed to escape to Britain over a 10-day period via a flotilla of small boats commandeered to rescue them.

Charles de Gaulle, who later commanded the Free French Forces from England, led one of the few French counteroffensives near the northwestern city of Abbeville.

Like Rotterdam, Abbeville was bombed to rubble May 20.

"There was nothing left after the bombing," recalled Louis Werheim, a six-year-old at the time.

Werheim and his family fled before the attack, and when they

returned, "there were bodies of French soldiers in our courtyard. They'd been shot by the Germans."

On June 22, France agreed to a ceasefire with Germany.

Under the terms of its capitulation, two-thirds of France was occupied, with a collaborationist government under World War I hero Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain running the unoccupied southeastern sector.

About 1.5 million French soldiers were taken prisoners and were essentially held hostages until the end of the war.

Military surrender was followed by civilian hardship. The German occupiers shipped able-bodied men from the occupied countries to slave labour in the German war industry.

The Netherlands, then primarily an agricultural economy, was gradually stripped of food to feed the nation that had conquered it.

There was widespread starvation in the Netherlands, with the "hunger winter" of 1944 one of this nation's strongest collective memories.

The Nazi invaders used the Dutch penchant for meticulous record-keeping to track down the nation's 150,000 Jews, and shipped them to the death camps. Only 6,000 survived.

The Netherlands' most famous war victim turned out to be a German-born Jewish teen-ager, Anne Frank, whose diary of hiding with her family from the Nazis is the nation's most poignant memorial to the death camp victims.

A similar death camp fate befell most of the Jews in Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

The unprovoked Nazi attack on Western Europe gave rise to various anti-Nazi movements.

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IMF to approve new loans of \$60b-\$80b

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) managing director indicated Saturday that the fund's member governments will approve new loans of \$60 billion to \$80 billion for Eastern Europe and Third World countries.

The IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, said a decision on the exact amount has still to be made, but it was expected Tuesday.

"It will vary in a relatively narrow band between the significant and the rather substantial," he told reporters. The fund's 152 member governments would then have to contribute the money so the loans could be made.

He accepted a reporter's suggestion that "significant" meant an increase of 50 per cent in the fund's resources and "rather substantial" could be as high as 70 per cent.

The fund's present resources theoretically total about \$120 billion worth of currencies, but much of that consists of currencies from Third World countries, which borrowers do not want.

A senior U.S. treasury official predicted Thursday that agree-

ment would be reached on an increase of about \$60 billion. Of this, some 12 billion would come from the United States.

The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also foresaw the possibility of a new delay in approval unless a decision is reached on the consequences of Japan becoming the biggest contributor after the United States.

The French and British governments have been disputing what their ranking would be. The official said a likely solution would be for Japan and West Germany to share second place, but the ranking of France and Britain remained unsettled.

Until now, Britain has been in second place, West Germany third, France fourth and Japan fifth.

Ministers of finance from all five countries are due to meet in

Washington on Sunday with their colleagues from Canada and Italy as the group of seven — G-7 — which tries to coordinate the economies of the world's leading financial countries. U.S. treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady was due to preside.

Camdessus said progress toward German unification is good news for Germany, Eastern Europe, the continent as a whole and the world in general. But he added that changes in contributions to the fund, called quotas, will be decided on the basis of the situation in 1985 when talks on the issue began.

He suggested that next time these quotas are reviewed it may be done on the basis of unified Germany. Normally the quotas are adjusted every five years.

Representatives of the 152 governments in the fund and its sister organization, the World Bank, began a series of semi-annual meetings Friday. They will continue until Tuesday — as usual, behind closed doors.

Camdessus praised Poland's new non-communist leadership for what he called its head-on approach in shifting toward a



Michel Camdessus market economy, instead of moving more gradually.

"This has worked," he said. He pointed out that the zloty, Poland's currency, has been so stable that there has been no need to use the international stabilization fund set up to support it.

Polish inflation has been cut and reserves are being accumulated, he added.

He stressed the importance of a "safety net" which he said the Polish government has in place to help those suffering from the transition, which is expected to bring on rampant unemployment.

The fund and bank are supporting Poland with loans, which now amount to more than \$1.1 billion.

Political push vital to trading system reform

By Robert Trantman
Reuters

NAPA, California — Reform of the world's trading system now depends on the leaders of the developed world showing the political will, but they will have to make big compromises, trade officials say.

Senior ministers of four trading powers — the United States, the European Community (EC), Japan and Canada — meeting here last week said the technical decisions for reform had mostly been taken.

The political decisions, they hope, will come when the leaders of the world's top seven industrial democracies meet in Houston, Texas, on July 7-11.

"We certainly look for a political push by the heads of state assembled," said U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills.

Said another official: "I see the summit as giving political impetus, making clear what the requirements are, a broad outline."

Common course

The ministers here tried to chart a common course for negotiators at the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), who want to complete liberalisation moves by the end of this year.

But officials say the national leaders, if they are to give the negotiators the elbow room they need at a critical GATT session set for Geneva July 23, will have to row back on some of their current positions.

GATT's 97 members want to cut farm subsidies that distort trade, write tighter rules to end the piracy of patents and copyrights and bring under global regulations the growing trade in such services as finance and insurance.

The ministers here want the seven leaders to reach the necessary compromises in Houston and order their GATT negotiators in Geneva to stop bickering and reach terms on a new agreement. The so-called G-7 — the Un-

ited States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — meets annually to take up global economic problems.

Farm subsidies

Political decisions at head of government level are needed in several key GATT areas, trade officials said, with farm subsidies at the top.

The United States has agreed to steady scale-backs in farm export subsidies until they are all ended, but while the EC has agreed to reduce them, it has balked at their total elimination.

Officials say a compromise on farm subsidies is needed for a GATT reform to be successful. The two sides have been inching toward compromise recently, but a decision will have to be taken by President George Bush and the recalcitrant EC, chiefly West Germany.

The officials are also looking for compromises in textiles, where industrial nations want to open their markets slowly but developing nations, many of which depend on exports of cloth and clothing, seek a quick end to the current quotas.

U.S. and EC officials say the industrial nations might be prepared to make concessions on textiles in return for Third World agreement to end restrictions on services.

A U.S. official said the political direction from the G-7 leaders would need to be finely tuned.

"There has to be some balance between political directives at the highest levels that are not so general as to be vague but on the other hand not so detailed and specific that negotiators get bogged down."

The four ministers said they wanted a rough agreement on a single sheet of paper to emerge from the July 23 meeting so that remaining disagreements could be ironed out by December.

An official said: "When you get to the point where you have a single document, you're very far along."

Cash-strapped Morocco adopts austerity measures

RABAT (R) — Debt-burdened Morocco is taking a dose of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) medicine to straighten out its finances.

"We have no reason to be pessimistic, but we must remain vigilant, confident in a radiant future," Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada told parliament Thursday when he unveiled a austerity drive that includes a budget squeeze and devaluation of the dirham.

But trade unions, who threatened to stage a general strike against economic hardship, have been told staple food prices will not rise. Legal minimum wages were increased 10 per cent.

The World Bank reckons that Morocco has a total debt of \$22 billion. Compared with the size of its economy, the estimate ranks it 11th in the list of heavily-burdened debtors.

Foreign commercial banks rescheduled \$3.2 billion of Morocco's debt last month, 36 per cent of it over 20 years with 10 years' grace, and the rest over 15 years with seven years' grace.

That gave the treasury breathing room, but Berrada, who puts the debt at \$20.7 billion, says interest charges and repayment absorb 42 per cent of tax revenues and 32 per cent of exports, remittances and tourism income.

"Without the benefit of rescheduling, servicing the debt would have absorbed 52 per cent of our receipts from exports and transfers," he said.

He said the debt burden was becoming lighter. It equaled 123 per cent of GDP in 1985 and was down to 94 per cent by 1988, but "the constraint of the foreign debt still persists."

Morocco's last 250 million credit facility from the IMF ran out in December. The IMF

had pressed for devaluation and a cut in the state deficit before granting a new one.

In the long term, Morocco hopes to benefit from the nearness of the European Community, just 10 miles across the Gibraltar straits, which Berrada says is destined to become the richest market in the world.

Plans were announced last week to create an off-shore banking system in the northern city of Tangier, and a duty free industrial zone in the new harbour at Jorf Lasfar near Casablanca.

Berrada's revamped 1990 budget will cut the deficit from an original estimate of 6.99 billion dirhams (\$795 million) to 987 million dirhams (\$112 million).

He said state capital investment will be slashed by 16 per cent, government running costs cut by three per cent and revenue increased 4.8 per cent by raking in more taxes.

The dirham was devalued by an average 9.25 per cent against a basket of mainly European currencies. During the previous 12 months it was allowed to slide by about six per cent.

Berrada said devaluation would "give new impetus to exports, promote national production and employment, and also be an incentive for Moroccans abroad to repatriate their savings."

The trade deficit doubled to a record \$2.3 billion last year, in part because India cancelled a contract to buy \$400 million of phosphoric acid, a major Moroccan export.

The cost of energy and food imports rose as well but the government's foreign exchange control reports reported better trade figures in the first quarter of 1990.

Imports rose 11.7 per cent while exports advanced 16.8 per cent after India resumed imports of phosphoric acid.

Exploration to surge in united Yemen — oil minister

By Mariam Isa
Reuters

SANAA — Oil exploration is likely to surge in a united Yemen due to be created this month, mostly in South Yemen whose full potential was left largely untapped under socialist rule.

"This merger (of North and South Yemen) is not only taking place because of historical links — it will broaden prospects for oil exploration in a wider area," North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Ali Muhani told Reuters in an interview.

"We hope that after unification, intensified exploration will take place in the southern part of the country... there is greater potential for crude in South Yemen," he added.

Oil is already an important source of income for North Yemen, whose conservative rulers have welcomed exploration by foreign companies. Sanaa became an oil exporter in December 1987 and pumps 180,000 barrels per day (BPD).

But the South, which only last year began to liberalise its

Soviet-style economy and political institutions after years of isolation following independence from Britain in 1967, pumps only about 15,000 BPD.

The South Yemen Oil Industry had until recently been almost exclusively dependent on Soviet expertise.

Some industry analysts estimate South Yemen's reserves at up to 3.75 billion barrels, though there is little data and the potential is difficult to assess.

North Yemen has recoverable reserves of some 500 million barrels from its total reserves of one billion barrels, and industry analysts say the country has been almost fully explored.

Muhani said the North's output would rise by 25,000 BPD by autumn when the Assad Al Kamil Field in the Marib-Jawf basin comes on stream. Next year the field's output would rise by a further 20,000 BPD.

More oil and gas would be found in both states, he added. One of the most promising areas was a 2,100 square kilometres border region between Marib in the north and

Shabwa in the south.

In March the new Yemen Company for Investment in Oil and Mineral Resources, run by both countries, licensed a foreign consortium to explore the area.

The firms — Hunt and Exxon of the U.S., the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation, France's CFP-TOTAL and Soviet firms Machinimport and Zarubezhneft — will drill seven exploratory wells and carry out seismic surveys over five years, Muhani said.

The joint development of this field in a previously disputed border region was a major impetus for unity between the two Yemens.

The petroleum ministries of the two countries will merge after political unification, which is to be followed by elections. Sanaa and Aden agreed in November to unite within a year but were widely expected to complete the process by the end of this month.

Muhani said the united Yemen would spend \$200 million to install new hydrocarbons, power units and storage facilities at Aden's 36-year-old refinery.

ABC to offer public shares

MANAMA (AP) — Abdullah A. Saudi, deputy chairman of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Bahrain's largest offshore bank, announced Saturday the bank will offer public shares worth \$250 million to both nationals and foreigners.

The decision, first adopted in 1989, is aimed at raising the bank's paid-up capital from \$750 million to \$1 billion.

The shares will be listed for trading on the Bahrain stock exchange, the first time that this will have occurred on the fledgling market of the Gulf island state.

The Bahrain government enacted a special law in March to allow foreigners to trade in this new ABC issue.

Saudi told a press conference that 25,000,000 ordinary shares, each of a nominal value of \$10 will be offered, 20 million in the Arab World, and five million outside.

The selling price of the shares will be finalised within the next 10 days, he said.

The share offering will be initiated between 22nd and 26th of the month, Saudi said.

Credit Suisse and First Boston will manage the placement outside the Arab World. ABC will be in charge of the public offering in Bahrain and the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment in cooperation with Olayan Financing Company will manage the remainder of the Arab World, Saudi said.

ABC, which is also classified as the Arab World's largest bank, was incorporated in Bahrain in 1980 with a capital of \$750 million, equally contributed by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Central Bank of Libya and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Dubai's re-exports to Iran surge

ABU DHABI (R) — Re-exports from the Gulf Entrepot of Dubai to Iran more than doubled in 1989, benefiting from the end of the Gulf war and Tehran's poor relations with the West. Official Dubai statistics show re-exports, hauled mostly by traditional wooden dhows to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, soared to 1.57 million dirhams (\$428 million) last year from 691 million (\$188 million) in 1988. "The increase was mainly due to the end of the Gulf war (in August 1988). Iran's problems with the West and an easing of restrictions on imports," a Dubai-based trader said Sunday. Iran's ties with the West are strained over Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon and a death order by Tehran against British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy. Traders said Iran preferred to import some industry spare parts, cars, foodstuffs and household appliances through Dubai, the Gulf's major trading port, rather than directly from Western states. The emirate of Dubai, part of the United Arab Emirates, had close ties to Iran throughout the eight-year Gulf war. Many of Dubai's merchants are of Iranian background.

Arabs should drill deeper for oil

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab states should use modern technology to drill deeper to find more oil, a senior official of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said. Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, assistant secretary general of the 10-nation group, said it was unlikely more major oil reserves would be found relatively near the surface. "We should resort to advanced technology to reach deep areas, where there are very big hydrocarbon potentials," he told the United Arab Emirates Oil Ministry magazine Petroleum and Industry. Wattari said most Arab oil wells were drilled no more than 3,000 metres, but added that there had been significant discoveries at depths of around 7,000 metres in Oman, Iraq and Kuwait.

Emirates airline to get Airbus

DUBAI (R) — Dubai-based Emirates Airlines said Sunday it had mandated two Dubai banks to finance the purchase of two Airbus A300-600R passenger aircraft. A statement gave no amount or terms for the loans but said 20 banks which tendered for the financing met or surpassed the basic requirement for 85 per cent financing for a term of 10-15 years. It said one of the planes would be financed by the Emirates Bank International in conjunction with Gulf International Bank BSC and Japan Leasing Corporation. The other would be financed by the National Bank of Dubai "as part of a similar financing structure, the details of which are currently under discussion." Emirates Airlines will take delivery of the planes in June and September this year.

Iran to boost trade

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday it planned to boost foreign trade by cutting red tape. Tehran Radio monitored in Nicosia, said special customs facilities and speedier clearance would help boost both imports and exports. Customs Chief Mohammad Khan told the radio that imports were forecast to reach 20 million tonnes in the Iranian year ending March 20, 1991. "Therefore to provide the necessary facilities... the government has reduced the country's foreign trade rules. Goods needed by state departments would be released without customs formalities when authorised by senior officials," he said. "Export formalities are now almost zero," he added. The government was planning to increase the volume of non-oil exports by 350 per cent, he said. Iran, which earns more than 90 per cent of foreign currency through oil sales, exported \$1.12 billion of non-oil goods in the year to March 20.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, May 6, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.3	424.8
Pound Sterling	1110.5	1117.2	Deutsch guilden	356.7	358.8
Deutsche mark	401.3	403.7	Swedish crown	109.6	110.3
Swiss franc	353.1	355.9	Italian lira (for 100)	54.7	55.0
French franc	119.4	120.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	192.8	194.0

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 7, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when study and application to the best means bring positive results. Your steadfastness in finishing what you have already started pays large dividends down the road.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The daytime finds you feeling a lack of the material things you would like to have but keep objective while evening has poor aspects for discussions.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You would be wise to be muted in stating to others what they can do to assist your progress forward but tonight don't upset a fractional friend.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) During the day you feel you can bring into the open your most practical wishes while in the evening do something mate likes but you don't very much.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look for a stubborn person to expect more of you than you can grant early in day but tonight busy yourself getting rid of all chores.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) While the day brings you many outside fixed problems for you to solve the evening is not the time to go after those intimate pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A day for your complete research and investigation into some different venture that intrigues you but avoid any public forum in the evening.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) A day to get into every promise you have made and see how you can carry through to your credit

but tonight some new ways to forge ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Much comes to light showing you whatever of a public nature you need to handle more conscientiously and tonight plan just how to do so later.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Work can be a real bore today but nevertheless do it well and you will be able to have some much time for fascinating interest in the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel you just must have some fun but the details of what like the most first have to be intelligently arranged; tonight improve your health.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Thoughts about your home and how to make it more livable and comfortable should occupy today's attention while tonight plan a budget for your recreations.

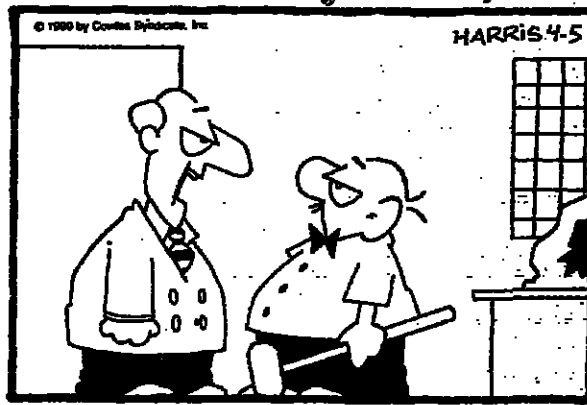
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Before going to usual allies with a different plan whereby you and they can be more productive, make sure you have it very clear in your mind.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he is a charmer having considerable refinement and ability in later life, at any sort of occupation that is connected with the desire of the general public for pleasure, entertainment or adornment. Success for this child is spread over a wide panorama in different fields.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Reprogramming the computer with a sledge hammer is a no-no."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOREBI

CUEJI

LOUGEY

BOOMAB

WHAT LITTLE WHALES LIKE BEST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "LOREBI"

Answer: "CUEJI"

Answer: "LOUGEY"

Answer: "BOOMAB"

Answer: "LOREBI"

Answer: "CUEJI"

Answer: "LOUGEY"

Answer: "BOOMAB"

Answer: "LOREBI"

Answer: "CUEJI"

Answer: "LOUGEY"

Answer: "BOOMAB"

Answer: "LOREBI"

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Answer: "LOREBI"

Answer: "CUEJI"

Answer: "LOUGEY"

Answer: "BOOMAB"

Answer: "LOREBI"

Answer: "CUEJI"

Tirol wins 2000 Guineas

NEWMARKET, England (R) — Bored-in French raider Machiavellian, ridden by Freddie Head, was beaten into second place by record-breaking 9-1 winner Tirol in the English 2,000 Guineas horse racing classic Saturday.

Machiavellian, 5-4 favourite, was hounded in on the rails with three furlongs (600 metres) to go and bumped Willie Carson's mount Elmaamal as Head switched his horse to the middle of the track.

The French colt challenged Tirol throughout the final furlong (200 metres), but Tirol, under strong driving from Irish champion Michael Kinane, ran out a worthy two lengths winner.

The time on the firm ground was a record one minute 35.84 seconds, 0.60 of a second faster than the previous best set last year by Naswain.

Anshan (6-1), owned by Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai, and ridden by Walter Swinburn, finished third another two lengths away, just ahead of Tirol's stable mate Rock City (14-1).

The stewards announced an immediate inquiry into the incident involving Machiavellian, but after viewing the film allowed the colt to keep second place.

However, it all brought to mind the 2,000 Guineas of 10 years ago when Nureyev, like Machiavellian, trained by Francois Boutin, finished first but was disqualified and the race awarded to Known Fact.

The result in the one mile (1.6 kilometres) event was another triumph for trainer Richard Hannon and owner John Horgan, who took the 2,000 Guineas three years ago with Don't Forget Me. Hannon was also successful in 1973 with Mon Fil.

Kinane was completing a trio of big race victories following wins last October in the Cartier Million in Ireland and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in France.

The Irishman was drawn one, by the rails, in the 14-strong field but managed to make his way towards the centre of the course just after half way.

Soccer violence mars end of England season

LONDON (R) — Violence marred the close of the English soccer season, raising fears that England will continue to be barred from European competition if drunken hooligans repeat their latest rampage at next month's World Cup games.

More than 70 people were arrested and at least 20 injured Friday and Saturday in the worst soccer violence in Britain for a year when visiting soccer fans ran riot in the southern resort of Bournemouth, attacking police and destroying property.

The scenes of violence, repeated on a smaller scale in at least three other English towns hosting end-of-season soccer matches, will have been watched closely by Italian authorities preparing for an invasion of European soccer fans in June.

British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan flies to Italy this week to discuss with World Cup organisers the problems of dealing with England's supporters.

English soccer fans have a fear-some reputation in Europe, where their particular brand of thuggery is known as the "English disease."

Authorities say English, West German and Dutch hooligans are among the worst offenders, vying for the title of champion tug.

British police have already warned that English and Dutch soccer hooligans are planning to clash during the first round of the World Cup, when as many as a thousand fans from the two countries are expected to stay on the island of Sardinia for two weeks.

British police keep a close watch on soccer hooligans but there is no law to stop them travelling to matches overseas.

Hooliganism first blighted the reputation of English club sides in the 1970s. It reached new heights at Brussels's Heysel stadium in 1985, when rioting involving British fans led to the deaths of 39 mainly Italian supporters.

Although English club sides were banned from Europe, the hooligans were undeterred, going on the war path again in 1988 when they wreaked havoc at the European championships.

England's readmittance will depend on how its supporters behave during the World Cup. The youths involved in the

weekend Bournemouth violence were the image of a typical English soccer hooligan — young, white working class males who travel to Europe not so much to cheer their teams but to punch and drink their way into trouble.

The English hooligan's favourite haunts are bars and pubs. When in Europe he boasts of thumping a lesson into the Krauts (Germans), the Ities (Italians) and the Frogs (French).

At home, he joins loosely-organised bands who adopt warlike names and go out fighting in the name of the teams they support — "The Red Army" supports Manchester United, "The Zulu Warriors" Birmingham City and the "The Service Crew" Leeds United.

Unbridled weaves way to Kentucky Derby victory

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — Unbridled, a 10-1 bet, received a great ride from jockey Craig Perret to win the 116th Kentucky Derby Saturday.

Summer Squall, at 2-1 one of the co-favourites at post time to win the mile and 1/4 test for three year olds, was overwhelmed in the stretch by Unbridled and finished second, three and a half lengths behind.

Pleasant Tap, at 40-1, showed amazing staying power to finish third, nine and a half lengths off the pace.

Minister Frisky, the top pre-race choice at 9-5, finished eighth, a huge 19-1/4 lengths behind the winner.

"When you ask him to do something," Perret said, "he's more than willing to do it."

Unbridled came out of the eighth post position and was nearly caught in a traffic jam getting out.

But Perret, who won his first Derby after three attempts, eased him back a bit and moved to the inside to bide his time.

Perret then threaded his horse through traffic for the rest of the

race, brilliantly avoiding being boxed out.

Speedsters Fighting Fantasy and Real Cash took the lead as the 15-horse field pounded by the grandstands for the first time.

Unbridled was running side by side with Pleasant Tap around the first turn about mid-way back in the field.

Perret weaved his horse in and out and positioned himself directly behind eventual fifth-place finisher Silver Ending heading into the back stretch. Perret then took Unbridled inside to pass Silver Ending and then moved outside again.

When Perret came out of the turn, he stopped Pat Day on

Summer Squall ahead of him and stayed on the outside and breezed by the favourite.

As they charged down the stretch, Perret did not look to the inside, apparently knowing he had Summer Squall beaten, and looked to his right instead for any challengers.

There were none and Unbridled, under the urging of Perret, charged across the finish line at two minutes and two seconds on a track rated good.

It was the first Derby victory for Unbridled's 92-year-old owner Frances Genter, who was in a box at Churchill Downs but could not see the race over the other spectators because she was in a

wheelchair.

Carl Nafziger, a former rodeo bullrider and now Unbridled's trainer, also won his first Derby and called the race for his owner, who has been involved in racing for 50 years.

"He's got the lead, he's got the lead," he shouted. "He's going to win, he's going to win. Mrs. Genter you just won the Kentucky Derby."

"Ohhhhh," she said and covered her face with her hands. Unbridled was named for another horse owned by Mrs. Genter in 1949 who she had groomed for the Derby but had not made it.

"He's (Unbridled) made every step and every bridge we put to him to get here," Perret said. "He let us know the whole time he was getting better. He did it professionally and that's why he won the way he did today."

Day, who came under criticism for waiting too long to push his horse, failed in his eighth Derby attempt. It marked the third consecutive year he has ridden the favourite to a second-place finish.

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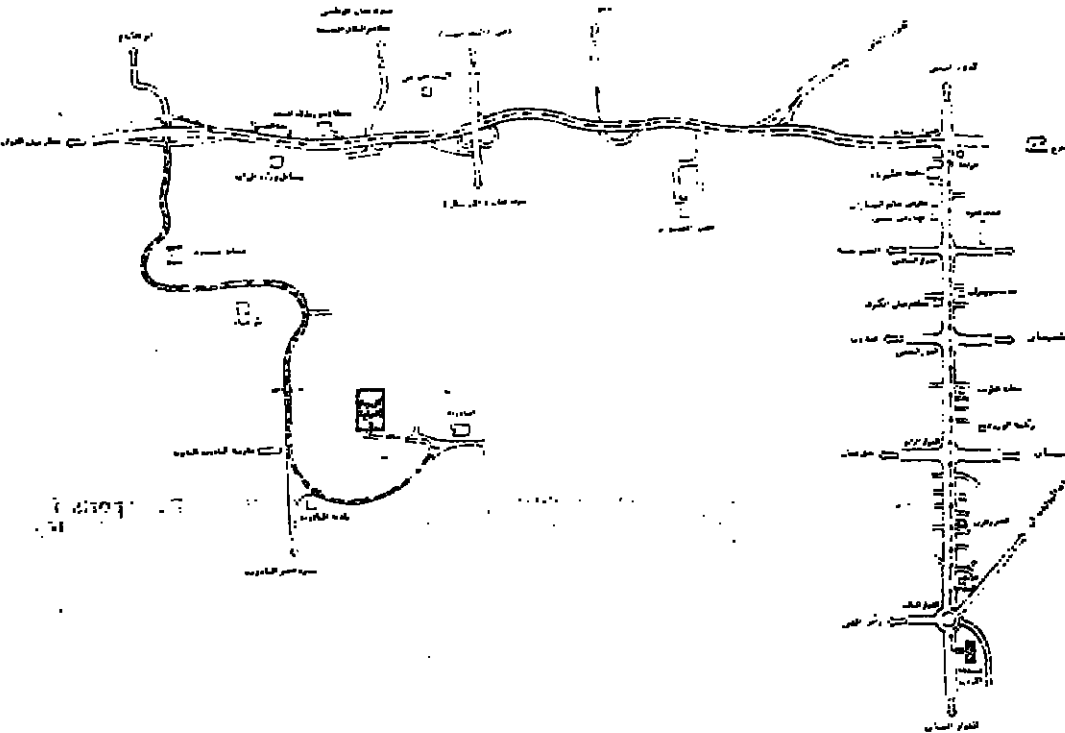
Location: 5th Circle, Abdoun area. Tel 698244

Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians M. A. P Walk Friday 11/5/1990

Date, time and venue

The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the map below. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 8.00. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.



Stations

The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 km. apart. Participants collect a yellow card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at the Kherbat Abu Jaber.

How much should one walk

One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 km. i.e. one should get at least the first card.

Food & drinks

Participants with yellow cards will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station upon the presentation of the yellow card.

Buses & Shuttles

These will be available during the walk to take the participants back to the Intercontinental Hotel or Kherbat Abu Jaber. An ambulance will be on stand by in case of emergency.

Police supervision

The police have been notified and will be available to ensure the safety of the participants.

Media Coverage

The event shall be covered by T.V. Radio and the local newspapers.

Collection of money

After completing the walk, the money pledged by all sponsors on each form, should be brought back to the organising committee not later than 25th of May 1990.

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North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ Q J 5, ♥ A J 5, ♦ 6 3 2, ♣ Q 5 7 2

WEST: ♠ K 10 9 4, ♥ Q 7 4 2, ♦ 9 8, ♣ 9 8

EAST: ♠ 8 7, ♥ 10 9 3, ♦ K 10 7 5 2, ♣ K 10 4

SOUTH: ♠ A 6 3 2, ♥ 8 6, ♦ A Q J 4, ♣ A 5 3

The bidding: South West North East 1 NT Dbl 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

This hand from the recent Fall North American Championships highlights one of the differences between rubber bridge and duplicate.

West's double of the one no trump opening bid was a major-suit take-out. At rubber bridge, North's action would be clear. He would redouble, and then double whatever suit his opponents came to rest in.

As the cards lie, that would result in North-South collecting a minimum of two tricks in each suit, depending on where East-West came to rest.

At duplicate, however, 500 points would not be enough to compensate for a vulnerable game. So when

New Jerseyans Larry Cohen and Dave Berkowitz sat North-South, Cohen elected to bid three no trump—a contract which was in some jeopardy.

West led a low heart, and declarer correctly inferred dummy's jack. When that won, the queen of clubs was run successfully (East would have done better to cover). Declarer next tried the diamond finesse and, when the jack won, he led a low spade toward the table's honors.

West hopped up with the king and reverted to the king of hearts, taken with the ace. Both of dummy's spades were cashed. East discarding a diamond on the second of these. Declarer came to hand with another diamond finesse and cashed the ace of spades. Since East could not discard from either minor suit without setting up at least one trick for declarer, he was forced to part with the remaining heart.

So Berkowitz cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with a diamond to East's king. That worthy now had to lead away from his king of clubs into declarer's combined ace-jack tenace, giving declarer an amazing 11 tricks in all.

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Adel Imam... in
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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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in
INDIANA
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Harrison Ford
in
INDIANA
JONES

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

East Germans vote in local polls to cap democratic change

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germans voted briskly Sunday for communal councils to flush out the vestiges of Stalinist rule, seven weeks after the general election that opened the gates to unification with West Germany.

Twelve million votes could pick from 24 lists of candidates from 62 parties, a far cry from local balloting a year ago in which the then-omnipotent Communist Party put up one list and doctored results to yield a 98.85 per cent victory.

The election fraud of May 7, 1989, helped bring simmering discontent with Stalinist dictatorship to a boil, spurring a "people power" revolution late last year and the election in March of a democratic grand coalition.

Sunday's voting was expected to remove Stalinists from district, municipal and neighbourhood councils who won in last year's fraudulent ballot.

Leading candidates to replace them were Christian Democrats (CDU), Social Democrats (SPD), grassroots reformers from groups like New Forum who galvanised the 1989 popular upheaval, and possibly reformist Communists.

Some 20,000 polling stations opened at 7 a.m. and were to close at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT). The first reliable computer projections of results were expected by mid-evening and the final unofficial outcome Monday.

Election officials said turnout was better than expected and could reach 65 to 75 per cent. But this would still be far short of the 95 per cent in the March elec-

tions. Indifference has grown because unification, the country's all-consuming agenda at the moment, has been decided and negotiations between East Berlin and Bonn are now wrapping up the details of monetary and economic merger.

"There's a certain exhaustion with communal politics now," said Foreign Minister Markus Meckel, a Social Democrat, as he voted in Magdeburg. "That's understandable because people are more interested in the union treaty (with Bonn)."

Sunny warm weather also tempted some votes to dash to beaches, parks or summer cottages rather than to ballot booths, the East German news agency ADN reported.

Polling station queues of more than one hour were reported as voters wrestled with ballot forms as big as newspaper pages and

covered with as many as two dozen party lists. Many people had trouble folding the ballots small enough to drop into urns.

CDU Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, head of East Berlin's first non-Communist government, stood in line patiently with ordinary citizens in his East Berlin district and said: "It doesn't mind. I'm a trained East German citizen."

The vote was seen as a barometer on the standing of De Maiziere's coalition and its deal with Bonn to introduce the West German mark as the East's currency in July as a prelude to political fusion of the Germans in the next two years.

Analysts said the CDU and the allied right-wing German Social Union (DSU) would probably equal or improve their combined 48 per cent sweep in the March 18 elections.

Botha quits party over apartheid talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Former President P.W. Botha said Sunday he had quit South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) as a protest against the apartheid reform programme of his successor F.W. de Klerk.

Botha told the Afrikaans-language Rapport newspaper, which has close links with the NP, he had decided not to renew his membership because of his deep differences with the present party leadership under de Klerk, who ousted him last year.

He said the final straw was the inclusion of South African Com-

munist Party leader Joe Slovo in the African National Congress (ANC) delegation which held historic talks on power-sharing last week with de Klerk.

Slovo, formerly the ANC's top military commander, was branded public enemy number one under Botha's presidency.

De Klerk said in a statement Botha's decision was based on wrong interpretations.

He said it was unfortunate he would once again be forced to repudiate the former president.

"It is a painful task because of the valuable contribution Mr.

Botha has made to the NP and to South Africa," de Klerk said.

A senior NP spokesman said Botha's resignation was tragic but was of no consequence because of his medical condition.

Botha, 74, was forced to resign the presidency after suffering a mild stroke, from which he has not fully recovered.

Ironically, the NP last week paid tribute to Botha's part in launching the reform initiative which led to the successful talks between the ANC and the government.

Manila hunts killer of U.S. Marine

MANILA (R) — Police hunting the killers of a U.S. Marine sergeant in the Philippines rounded up dozens of suspects Sunday as 40,000 American military personnel and their families were confined to their bases by a U.S. travel ban.

Police in Olongapo said they had brought in for questioning more than 30 people after suspected Communist guerrillas shot dead Sergeant John Fredette, 34, outside the U.S. Subic Bay Naval Base late Friday.

He was shot in the back of the head in Olongapo's entertainment district nine days before the opening of talks between the United States and the Philippines on the future of American military bases in the country.

The Communist New People's Army in the Philippines had threatened to attack U.S. servicemen as part of a campaign to have the bases removed.

No group or person has so far claimed responsibility for the Fredette killing.

Military and police have set up checkpoints in and around Olongapo, the recreation centre of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, to try to flush out the suspected Communist assassins who gunned down Fredette.

The commercial area in Olongapo was deserted Sunday, with only a few shops open after U.S. authorities imposed travel restrictions on U.S. personnel and their dependents and suspended their leave and liberty.

A Subic statement said the ban, enforced Saturday, has not been lifted. It also affects Clark Air Base and four smaller U.S. facilities.

Clark and Subic, which lie north and west of Manila, are the largest U.S. bases outside American territory and employ 78,000 Filipinos.

Olongapo shop and bar-owners, who are hardest hit by the ban, are raising reward money for anybody who can provide information leading to the capture of Fredette's assassins.

The Olongapo's Businessmen's Association told reporters pledges from members had reached 160,000 pesos (\$7,000).

For example, access to Soviet radar systems aided in development of the "Stealth" technology that is designed to allow U.S. military planes to avoid radar detection, the paper said.

It quoted U.S. government officials as saying that Nicolae Ceausescu was not personally involved in the dozen or so transactions, but that the operation could have succeeded only with his tacit approval.

The Romanian operation came to a halt with Ceausescu's overthrow and execution last December, the paper said.

Moreover, it said the pro-democracy upheaval in Eastern Europe has disrupted the broader operation, but not stopped it.

Over the past decade, the United States has paid more than \$250 million to obtain the latest versions of Soviet-made weapons systems through contacts in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and Bulgaria, the Post quoted its sources as saying.

The willingness of influential military or Communist Party officials to sell secrets to the United States was viewed by some U.S. intelligence officials as a reflection of growing discontent among some Warsaw Pact officials.

Baker invites Poland to German talks

WARSAW (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker III invited Poland Sunday to participate in a six-nation meeting in Paris in July during which the country will seek a guarantee of its Western border from a united Germany.

"I thought it was important to try to come by," Baker told Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki after arriving from Bonn, where he attended the first top-level talks on German unification.

Baker said he would give Polish leaders a complete report on the discussions held Saturday by the four victorious World War II allies and the two Germans now speeding toward merger. He was to fly back to Washington after the six-hour stop in Warsaw.

Poland, overrun by the Germans in World War II, is trying to protect itself from a strengthened neighbour that was forced to forfeit 102,000 square kilometres to Poland in postwar compensation for an even larger swathe of eastern Poland annexed by the Soviet Union.

A senior U.S. official said during the flight to Warsaw that Baker also would talk to the Poles about events in Lithuania, where the independence movement is under economic pressure from the Soviet Union. Ethnic Poles make up about 8 per cent of the Baltic republic's population.

Baker is also expected to get a report on Soviet thinking as well as Poland's strenuous effort to adjust to a Western-style economy from the democratic reformers and former Communists in Poland's government, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At Saturday's unification talks, the six nations also decided that Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski would be invited to attend a third session in Paris. Baker said he carried a letter for the foreign minister requesting his presence.

"While the agenda topic is borders, he will be free to raise and discuss whatever issues he would like to discuss," Baker said.

Poland has vigorously sought participation in the unification talks to guarantee its Western border from any German efforts to regain lost territory.

India, Pakistan exchange fire on Kashmir border

JAMMU, India (R) — Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged gunfire in a tense sector of the line dividing disputed Kashmir, and two Pakistani soldiers were believed killed, Indian officials said Sunday.

Indian police also reported two major clashes with militants in the Kashmir Valley that killed 11 people.

The officials said the border shooting started Saturday in the Soker area of Punch district, where the two armies routinely exchange fire, when Pakistani soldiers started building a bunker in no-man's land.

Pakistani soldiers were seen carrying away two limp bodies of their colleagues, and Indian officials believed them to be dead.

Heated words over an anti-Indian uprising in the Kashmir Valley have led to fears of war over Kashmir, the cause of two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since they became independent of Britain in 1947.

In the Punch sector of the line that divides the one-third of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, the two armies shoot at each other almost every day. Casualties, however, are relatively rare.

India is keen to seal the line separating the two Kashmiris to prevent alleged infiltration by militants fighting Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan denies Indian allegations that it arms and trains the militants in the part of Kashmir it controls.

In the clashes with militants,

Indian police said a paramilitary force doctor and one member of his unit were killed in an ambush in the southern Kashmir Valley Friday. Five militants were killed, they said.

Four more militants were killed Saturday after opening fire on a patrol that challenged them in the northern part of the valley, Indian police said Sunday.

India says it has killed dozens of militants trying to enter the Kashmir Valley from Pakistan in the four months since a long-running agitation against Indian rule exploded into an uprising. At least 300 people have been killed this year.

It has told Pakistan bluntly to stem the infiltrations, warning it would do whatever necessary to halt the flow if Pakistan did not. Delhi has not ruled out military action.

Indian officials say the most dangerous phase should start in mid-May, when the high Himalayan passes into the Kashmir Valley normally become passable as winter snows melt.

In Islamabad, a spokesman for the Pakistan army said the only casualty of Indian firing in Kashmir was a farmer working in his fields in the Leepa sector north of Punch.

Farmer Zamin Shah from Bella village was killed Saturday in a field close to the ceasefire line.

"He was just looking after his field and they shot him," the spokesman said. "There has been generally an exchange of firing at various places but there has been no killing in the Punch sector."

Thousands march against Taiwan premier-designate

TAIPEI (R) — Thousands of students staged a peaceful march through central Taipei Sunday, wrapping up a five-day protest against President Lee Teng-hui's decision to appoint Taiwan's most powerful general as premier.

Two thousand marchers, watched by several thousand others, paraded through crowded streets yelling "If military men are in power, democracy won't come" and "Oppose military intervention in government."

Lee, who on May 20 will be inaugurated to a new term as president, on May 2 shocked Taiwan by naming current defence minister and longtime boss Hsu Pei-tsun as his choice for premier when the cabinet is reshuffled.

A tough soldier and an arch-conservative, Hsu was previously Taiwan's longest-serving chief of general staff and has been dubbed a potential military strongman by the opposition.

Political liberals in Taiwan fear Hsu's nomination could put the brakes on democratic reform on the island, launched with the decision to end martial law in 1987.

Students, flush from an unprecedented series of protests for greater democracy in March, on May 3 began a new sit-in in Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Park to protest Hsu's nomination.

But unlike the March protests, which drew thousands, only several hundred protesters participated in the latest sit-in before Sunday's march.

Nepali press breathes air of freedom

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's newspapers are breathing again now that freedom is in the air.

"If there is deception again, there will be no monarchy," screamed the headline in one newspaper.

"Opposition conspiring against democracy," said another.

Six weeks ago such headlines would have brought the censors to the newspaper's office and police would have dragged the publisher to jail.

Censorship was common in the Himalayan kingdom and jailing journalists a routine affair. The return of democracy has changed all that.

"After the 1960 military takeover we were in bad shape in Nepal. The harassment of journalists was commonplace and registrations of newspapers were frequently cancelled," said Govinda Bhyogi, editor of the Matribhoomi and Janadoot newspapers.

"We were not allowed to use the word 'multiparty'," he said in

an interview. "Now newspapers are selling like hot cakes and there is competition."

Bhyogi, president of the Nepal Journalists Association, was arrested four times in the past 30 years and the licence of his newspapers was cancelled three times, once for nearly two years.

Five weeks ago democracy was restored in the kingdom after scores of people were killed during a pro-democracy campaign launched by banned political parties aiming to turn King Birendra from an absolute to a constitutional monarch.

Birendra lifted the three-decade ban on political parties imposed by his father in 1961 and dismantled the party-less system against which the campaign was launched.

He named a new government headed by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai of the centrist Nepali Congress Party and promised free elections within a year.

Within days of the restoration

of democracy 41 journalists detained at the start of the democracy campaign in February were freed.

"Be as critical of the government as you want to be," said Ganesh Man Singh, supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, at a reception to honour the jailed journalists.

Circulation of newspapers has jumped dramatically. Those that previously came out as underground publications are now published and sold openly and enjoy a new, wide readership.

Bhyogi's Matribhoomi weekly, which had a circulation of only 7,000, now sells nearly 30,000 copies.

"Hawkers fight among themselves to pick up copies of the newspapers. I can't print more because the machinery is very old," Bhyogi said.

"At last we are free to write what we like," said Madhav Rim-al, the editor of Spotlight magazine.

San Salvador, rebels discuss peace prospects

MEXICO CITY (R) — Representatives from El Salvador's political parties met in Mexico City with leftist rebel leaders Saturday to discuss prospects for peace in their war-ravaged homeland.

Delegates from both sides in El Salvador's civil war were tight-lipped about the proposals they would make at the meeting. The talks brought together representatives of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and eight political parties for the first time in more than a year.

The representatives, including rebel leader Shafik Handal, and Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador's ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, said they were encouraged by progress towards peace after a decade of war.

"The conditions for peace are better than ever," Guillermo Ungo, head of the left-wing National Revolutionary Movement, told reporters before entering the closed-door talks at a hotel in southern Mexico City.

Handal said the meeting could lay the groundwork for direct peace talks this month between the FMLN and El Salvador's U.S.-backed government.

He and other participants in the talks here said they could last

through Sunday afternoon.

A previous round of peace talks aimed at ending the Salavorean conflict broke down in October, shortly before a rebel offensive which claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Some 75,000 people have died in the conflict.

In a separate development, evidence has vanished and potential witnesses failed to testify in El Salvador's investigation into the murder of six Jesuit priests last November, the court in charge of the case said Saturday.

In a statement carried by newspapers, the court quoted military authorities as saying a ledger of possibly key troop movements at San Salvador's military academy the night of the murders "has been mislaid."

The court added that four cadets on duty at the academy the night of the murders had left the country without testifying. The priests' housekeeper and her daughter also died in the attack.

El Salvador's investigation into the Nov. 16 killings has recently come under heavy criticism.

A U.S. House of Representatives task force on the murders said last week the probe was at a standstill. Secretary of State James Baker has said U.S. military aid to El Salvador depends on progress in the case.

Romanian protesters cautious over Iliescu dialogue proposal

BUCHAREST (R) — An offer by interim President Ion Iliescu to talk to street protesters camped in central Bucharest was just a bid to buy time, a leader of the demonstrators said Sunday.

The protesters, who accuse Iliescu of being a neo-Communist and want him to resign, have been encamped in University Square, along one of the main arteries of the Romanian capital, for over two weeks.

Iliescu said Saturday he would meet the leaders of the groups behind the protest Tuesday but stressed that he would not negotiate on some of their demands, including changes in the electoral law or postponing the elections set for May 20.

"First Iliescu rejected dialogue outright," said Aleksandar Nancu, president of the 21 December Organisation, one of the five major groups involved in the demonstration. "Then he offers us dialogue. And then he makes these conditions."

"We're asking ourselves just what is going on," he said. "Iliescu is just trying to buy time."

The five groups issued a statement Saturday night saying that "under the present conditions dialogue was not possible." But Nancu, speaking on behalf of them all Sunday, did not rule out the meeting.

"We don't exclude dialogue but we must take a stand on Iliescu's vacillations," he said.

"We'll try to contact Iliescu's spokesman and get more specifics about what he wants to talk about. There's not much more we can do."

Iliescu, once a senior Communist official under Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, is running for president as a candidate of the ruling National Salvation Front in the country's first free elections in over half a century.

The Front came to power during last December's bloody uprising which toppled Ceausescu. Many groups behind the protest say this amounted to a coup and doubt Iliescu's democratic credentials.

Iliescu's proposal was clearly aimed at taking the wind out of the protest which has been copied in at least five other towns, including Timisoara, birthplace of the December revolt.

"As far as I am concerned, it is obvious that the dialogue Tuesday will leave the demonstration without logical motivation," Iliescu said.

"The consequences of this demonstration have more impact on the political life of the country."

But Nancu said fruitless dialogue could only fuel the demonstration which swelled to 10,000 people Saturday night.

"If Iliescu is trying to dilute the protest in University Square, we will have to step up pressure," he said. "Unfortunately, this seems to be the case."

Resorts battle to build longest sand sculpture

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Resorts on opposite sides of the North American continent are battling to build the world's longest sand sculpture. "We shall fight them on the airwaves. We shall fight them in the newspapers. Most importantly, we shall fight them on the beaches," proclaimed a group of civic leaders in the tiny resort community of Long Beach, Washington.

A similar coalition of civic leaders in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, issued a declaration of war. Last June, about 2,000 people carved a world-record sand sculpture 4,591 metres long at Myrtle Beach. But the record fell in July when Long Beach sculpted a sea serpent of 4,889 metres.

Rock world pays tribute to Lennon

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — The rock world paid tribute to murdered Beatle John Lennon Saturday by staging a concert of his classic songs in his home town a decade after he was shot dead in New York. The open-air show in the centre of the northern English city of Liverpool marked what would have been Lennon's 50th birthday. U.S. soul singer Al Green kicked off singing All You Need Is Love. The crowd joined in enthusiastically in bright sunshine. Lennon's widow Yoko Ono told the audience of around 15,000: "Hello Liverpool, I love you... it's a great day isn't it? I think John would be happy."

Twenty stars took part in the event, co-hosted by Christopher Reeve who starred in the hit film Superman.

Ex-Playboy model convicted on tax charges

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AP) — A woman who once posed nude for Playboy magazine with her twin sister was convicted of evading taxes on money she allegedly got from an elderly millionaire in exchange for sex. Prosecutors contended Lynette Harris and her sister collected more than \$1 million in cash and goods from the late David Kritzky for spending alternate nights with him. A U.S. district jury found Ms. Harris, 35, guilty of two felony counts of tax evasion and two misdemeanor counts of failing to file income tax returns. The charges involve her failure to report as income \$686,000 she received from Kritzky from 1984 to 1987. The taxes amount to \$260,000, said U.S. attorney Mel Johnson. She could be sentenced to a maximum of 12 years in prison and fined \$626,000. Her identical twin sister, Leigh Ann Conley, is to be tried in June on similar charges involving allegedly unpaid taxes on \$397,000.

Newly found Liszt concerto needs work

CHICAGO (R) — A lost piano concerto written by Franz Liszt 150 years ago and performed in public for the first time this week is being hailed as important and fascinating but in need of a rewrite if the composer were still around to tinker it on. "On first hearing it sounded like second-rate Liszt in a first-rate performance," said John von Rhein music critic for the Chicago Tribune.

The 15-minute work in E flat major entitled Opus Posthumous was premiered Thursday night by Canadian soloist Jaana Fialkowska with the Chicago Symphony. The concerto was found by Jay Rosenblatt, a doctoral student from the University of Chicago who was gathering material for his dissertation at a Budapest musical archive. Rosenblatt put the piece together with parts of manuscripts he found in Weimar, Nuremberg and Leningrad.

At waste expo garbage is good

ATLANTA (AP) — The man with two boxes of trash bags looked out of place amid the models in cocktail dresses, the stacks of truck tires and the tie-dyed salespeople from the world's No. 1 jewelry company serving the sanitation industry. "I'm not trying to sell chink saks," Thomas W. Higgins confessed. "I'm trying to sell an idea." Higgins' idea — clear hefty chink saks — might seem a trifle mundane. But last month's Earth Day somehow has Americans excited about a mundane task — throwing out trash. And that has people very excited at Waste Expo '90, the annual convention of the National Solid Waste Management Association.

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Jose Quinon, Santacruz's attorney, said he advised his client to make the plea after details of the government's case emerged.

"It was an unbeatable case, very well put together," Quinon said.

In exchange for the pleas, the government agreed to drop the most serious count, operating a continuing criminal enterprise, which carries a mandatory life prison sentence.

As it is, the charges they pleaded to Thursday carry a minimum term of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment. Their trial had been expected to last another month.

"Echeverri's as big an active dooper as we've ever gotten," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Vick Jr. "This disrupts their U.S. operation."

In Miami, Florida, the reputed number three man in Colombia's Cali drug cartel and an associate pleaded guilty to federal drug charges two weeks into their trial, after a defence attorney concluded the government had "an unbeatable case."